



CMS Snapshot

March 25-April 1, 2021

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 25 through 2pm Thursday, April 1, 2021.

News Releases

*March 26- [OCR Settles Eighteenth Investigation in HIPAA Right of Access Initiative](#). The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announces its eighteenth settlement of an enforcement action in its HIPAA Right of Access Initiative. OCR announced this initiative to support individuals' right to timely access of their health records at a reasonable cost under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

*March 29- [HHS to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for Older Adults and People with Disabilities](#). As part of President Biden's announcement today that the administration will take further action to expand access to COVID-19 vaccines, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL), will provide nearly \$100 million to help increase vaccinations among older adults and people with disabilities. This effort will help advance the key goals of protecting those most vulnerable and advancing equity within President Biden's National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness.

*April 1- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Launches Nationwide Network of Trusted Voices to Encourage Vaccination in Next Phase of COVID-19 Public Education Campaign](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing additional measures to encourage vaccinations and increase vaccine confidence as part of the next phase of its COVID-19 public education campaign. The Administration is launching the COVID-19 Community Corps – a nationwide, grassroots network of local voices people know and trust to encourage Americans to get vaccinated. As part of the launch of the Community Corps, Vice President Kamala Harris and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy will meet with founding members on Thursday, April 1, as she begins championing the next phase of the public education campaign from the White House.

*April 1- [HHS Secretary Becerra Announces Reduced Costs and Expanded Access Available for Marketplace Health Coverage Under the American Rescue Plan](#) ([Spanish version](#)). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra announced that additional savings and lower health care costs are available for consumers on HealthCare.gov. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has increased tax credits available to consumers, helping to reduce premiums and giving consumers access to affordable health care coverage.

Blog

*April 1- [New, lower costs on Marketplace coverage available now](#). You may be eligible for more savings and lower costs on Marketplace health insurance due to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 — even if you weren't before! Health insurance premiums after these new savings will go down.

*April 1- [Going electronic is easy with Medicare online resources](#). Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, is a great time to think about ways to reduce your carbon footprint. Medicare's online resources make reducing your use of paper easier.

*April 1- [Next time, get your "Medicare & You" handbook electronically!](#) Perhaps you got your paper copy of the 2021 "Medicare & You" handbook in the mail last fall, as you did the year before that. And the year before that. Maybe it's time to make that your last paper copy.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov