



CMS Snapshot

July 1-8, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 1 through 2pm Thursday, July 8, 2021.

News Releases

*July 1- [HHS Announces Rule to Protect Consumers from Surprise Medical Bills](#). Today, the Biden-Harris Administration, through the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and Treasury, and the Office of Personnel Management, issued "Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part I," an interim final rule that will restrict excessive out of pocket costs to consumers from surprise billing and balance billing. Surprise billing happens when people unknowingly get care from providers that are outside of their health plan's network and can happen for both emergency and non-emergency care. Balance billing, when a provider charges a patient the remainder of what their insurance does not pay, is currently prohibited in both Medicare and Medicaid. This rule will extend similar protections to Americans insured through employer-sponsored and commercial health plans.

*July 1- [CMS Proposes Changes to Reduce Health Care Disparities Among Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease and End-Stage Renal Disease](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing actions that aim to close health equity gaps by providing Medicare patients battling End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) with greater access to care, through the ESRD Prospective Payment System (PPS) annual rulemaking. This proposed rule would update ESRD PPS payment rates, make changes to the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP), and modify the ESRD Treatment Choices (ETC) Model. The proposed changes to the ETC Model policies would aim to encourage dialysis providers to decrease disparities in rates of home dialysis and kidney transplants among ESRD patients with lower socioeconomic status, making the model the agency's first CMS Innovation Center model to directly address health equity.

*July 2- [Readout of the Fifth COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting](#). On Friday, June 25, COVID-19 Health Equity Chair Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, held the fifth COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force meeting to consider interim recommendations addressing the inequities and the impact of long-COVID or Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC), and access to personal protective equipment (PPE), testing and therapeutics.

*July 6- [CMS Announces Director of Center for Medicare](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Dr. Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D. as Deputy Administrator and Director of Center for Medicare. Dr. Seshamani will lead the Center's efforts in serving the people 65 or older, people with disabilities and people with End-Stage Renal Disease that rely on Medicare coverage. Dr. Seshamani starts July 6.

Fact Sheets

* July 1- [What You Need to Know about the Biden-Harris Administration's Actions to Prevent Surprise Billing](#). On July 1, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration, through the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury, as well as the Office of Personnel Management, issued "Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part I," an interim final rule with comment period that will restrict surprise billing for patients in job-based and individual health plans and who get emergency care, non-emergency care from out-of-network providers at in-network facilities, and air ambulance services from out-of-network providers.

*July 1- [Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part I Interim Final Rule with Comment Period](#). On July 1, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Labor, and the Department of the Treasury (collectively, the Departments), along with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released an interim final rule with comment period (IFC), entitled "Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part I." This rule related to Title I (the No Surprises Act) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 establishes new protections from surprise billing and excessive cost-sharing for consumers receiving health care items and services.

*July 1- [End Stage Renal Disease \(ESRD\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Calendar Year \(CY\) 2022 Proposed Rule \(CMS-1749-P\) Fact Sheet](#). On July 1, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that proposes to update payment rates under the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS) for renal dialysis services furnished to beneficiaries on or after January 1, 2022. This proposed rule includes several requests for information to inform future payment reform under the ESRD PPS.

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