CMS Snapshot

April 5-11, 2019

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group

Blog Entries:

*April 9- Think before you drink. As you get older, alcohol may start to effect you differently. You may become more sensitive to it, and your regular drinking habits could become a problem.

News Releases

*April 5- CMS finalizes policies to bring innovative telehealth benefit to Medicare Advantage. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized policies that will increase plan choices and benefits, including allowing Medicare Advantage plans to include additional telehealth benefits. These policies continue the agency's efforts to modernize the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, unleash innovation and drive competition to improve quality among private Medicare health and drug plans.

*April 9- CMS Proposes Expanding Coverage of Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed to update its national coverage policy for Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM).

*April 10- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health Announces Reorganization. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) announced its new structure aimed at strengthening its public health portfolio with a more streamlined organization poised to provide stronger cross-cutting, science-based, health-promoting leadership on our nation's most important public health topics.

*April 11- Ignite Accelerator Announces 19 Teams Selected for the Eighth Round of the Internal Innovation Training and Incubator Program. The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) is pleased to announce the teams selected for the eighth round of the HHS IDEA Lab Ignite Accelerator program. The Ignite Accelerator Program stimulates innovative problem-solving across the Department by encouraging and enabling HHS employees at all levels to experiment, test, and validate solutions to key departmental challenges.

Fact Sheets

*April 5- [Contract Year 2020 Medicare Advantage and Part D Flexibility Final Rule (CMS-4185-F)](). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that updates the Medicare Advantage (MA or Part C) and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D) programs by promoting innovative plan designs, improved quality, and choices for patients.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

*April 17- [Physicians, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Open Door Forum](). 2pm-3pmET. The proposed agenda is as follows: Open Payments Update; Chiropractic Services. If you wish to participate, dial 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: 3176729.

*April 16 & 17- Understanding Medicare (CEU) Webinars. These interactive training webinars are stand-alone events covering Medicare Program basics. You aren't required to attend both days and space is limited. The number of continuing education units (CEUs) you can earn is 0.2 (2 hours) for each day you attend the training and complete all course requirements. Topics for each day: Day 1- Medicare enrollment and eligibility; SSA and CMS roles and responsibilities; cost and coverage under Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance); why enrolling on time is important; an overview of Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policies; and the basics of Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D). To register for Day 1- [CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=50]().
Day 2- Medicare Advantage Plans; coordination of benefits; how to detect and report suspected Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse; and different resources to help you find answers to Medicare policy and coverage questions. To register for Day 2- [CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=49]().

*From Coverage to Care (C2C) - From Coverage to Care (C2C) is an initiative to help you understand your health coverage and connect to primary and preventive services that are right for you, so you can live a long and healthy life. CMS partners can be a part of an important effort to eliminate health disparities and improve the health of our nation. Materials can be downloaded in 8 languages or printed copies can be shipped to you at no cost.

For more information and resources, go to [CMS.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/equity-initiatives/from-coverage-to-care.html]()

For more information please email [partnership@cms.hhs.gov]()