



CMS Snapshot

August 1- 8, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, August 1 through 2pm Thursday, August 8, 2024.

News Releases

*August 1- [HHS Finalizes New Policies to Support Underserved Communities, Mitigate Drug Shortages, and Promote Safety](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), issued a final rule updating Medicare payments and policies for inpatient hospitals and long-term care hospitals. The rule improves the health of people with Medicare by addressing key social determinants of health and strengthening emergency preparedness. The fiscal year (FY) 2025 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System (LTCH PPS) rule builds on the Biden-Harris Administration's work to support the health of historically underserved and under-resourced communities and promote value-based care.

*August 5- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles Complaint with New Jersey Imaging Network to Resolve a Disability Complaint Filed Under Federal Civil Rights Law](#). *Today's action helps to ensure individuals with mobility impairments have access to mammography examinations.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) entered into a settlement with the New Jersey Imaging Network to resolve a civil rights complaint from an individual who uses a wheelchair, and was denied mammography because of her disability, based on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (Section 1557), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. Together, these laws protect people with disabilities from discrimination in any program or activity receiving funding from HHS. OCR finalized important updates to the rules implementing Section 504 and Section 1557 this Spring.

*August 5- [New Data Show Highest Number of Health Center Patients in Nearly 60 Year History of the Program](#). *HRSA-Funded Health Centers Served 2.7 Million More Patients Over Past Four Years, Reaching High of More than 31 Million Patients.* Today, to mark National Health Center Week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released new data showing over 31 million total patients served at HRSA-funded health centers in 2023—an increase of 2.7 million since 2020.

*August 6- [Civil Rights and Health Privacy Fact Sheet for Farmworkers](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces laws that protect you against discrimination in health and human services based on your race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, and disability. You cannot be denied health care coverage or treatment due to your race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in most health care services and programs.

*August 6- [HHS Marks Farmworker Appreciation Day; Expands Language Access and Increases Support for Workplace Evaluations, Clinician Education, and More](#). *Announcements are part of Secretary Becerra's Initiative on Protecting Farmworkers from Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke.* Today, Secretary Becerra observed Farmworker Appreciation Day by participating in a “charla” - a conversation - about extreme heat with farmworkers organized by Líderes Campesinas. The Secretary also announced several new actions to support farmworkers.

*August 7- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards Nearly \\$9 Million to Improve Access to Cancer Screening and Connections to Follow-up Treatment in Underserved Communities to Deliver on Biden Cancer Moonshot Goals](#). *Funding will leverage outreach specialists and patient navigators to conduct engagement in underserved communities to promote early cancer detection, connect people to screening services, and provide assistance accessing cancer care and treatment.* Today, to mark National Health Center Week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly \$9 million to 18 HRSA-funded health centers to improve access to life-saving cancer screenings in underserved communities. Health centers will partner directly with National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers to expedite patient access to cancer care and treatment.

*August 7- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Declares Public Health Emergencies For States Impacted By Tropical Storm Debby](#). *Federal health care personnel, resources at-the-ready to support affected states.* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra has declared [Public Health Emergencies](#) (PHEs) for the states of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina to address the health impacts of Hurricane Debby, now Tropical Storm Debby. The declarations follow President Biden’s emergency declarations for [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), and [South Carolina](#) and give the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), health care providers, and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

*August 8- [Breaking Language Barriers: HHS Issues Division-Specific Language Access Plans from Across the Department](#). In November 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) joined agencies across the federal government in prioritizing communication in its services to the public by releasing its department-wide Language Access Plan. With the release of its plan, HHS took a giant step towards ensuring people with limited English proficiency (LEP) and people with disabilities have greater access to the life-saving services that it provides.

Fact Sheets

*August 7- [Final Notice — Transitional Coverage for Emerging Technologies \(CMS-3421-FN\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to making sure people with Medicare have access to medical advancements that improve health outcomes and enhance health quality. CMS' Transitional Coverage for Emerging Technologies (TCET) Pathway helps people with Medicare access the latest medical advances, enables doctors and other clinicians to provide the best care for their patients, and benefits manufacturers who create innovative technologies. With support from policymakers, trust from patients and providers, and meaningful collaboration with manufacturers, CMS aims to improve the care and quality of life for people with Medicare while enhancing and encouraging innovation.

Blogs

*August 7- [Change Story: Rachel Levine](#). By: [Rachel Levine M.D.](#), Assistant Secretary for Health & Head of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Department of Health and Human Services. Summary: Admiral Rachel Levine leads DEIA at HHS, leveraging her career to push for inclusive policies, improved data collection, and equitable healthcare for LGBTQI+ communities. A Message from the Assistant Secretary for Health & Head of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

*August 8- [Stay alert & keep your information safe](#). Be careful of people who may try to steal your personal information, trick you into paying them, or enroll you in coverage without your consent.