



CMS Snapshot

September 5-12, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 5 through 2pm Thursday, September 12, 2024.

News Releases

*September 5- [Biden-Harris Administration Kicks Off National Recovery Month with Walk for Recovery and Gallery of Hope](#). Today, leaders from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) joined recovery advocates to kick off observance of the 35th National Recovery Month at the second annual SAMHSA Walk for Recovery. The National Walk for Recovery supports and celebrates recovery from substance use and/or mental health conditions while reducing stigma.

*September 6- [CMS Notifies Individuals Potentially Impacted by Data Breach](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (WPS) are notifying people whose protected health information or other personally identifiable information (PII) may have been compromised in connection with Medicare administrative services provided by WPS. WPS is a CMS contractor that handles Medicare Part A/B claims and related services for CMS.

*September 6- [CMS Roundup \(September 6, 2024\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*September 9- [Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Treasury Issue Final Rules Strengthening Access to Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder Benefits](#). WASHINGTON – As part of the Biden-Harris administration’s effort to ensure more than 150 million people with private health coverage have greater access to mental health and substance use disorder care, the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and the Treasury took significant action today by issuing final rules to clarify and strengthen protections to expand equitable access to these benefits as compared to medical and surgical benefits and reduce barriers to accessing these services.

*September 9- [AHRQ Announces Funding Opportunities to Establish State-based Solutions to Accelerate Health Care Improvement](#). Today, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

(AHRQ) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) to establish [state-based Healthcare Extension Cooperatives](#), representing a historic investment to accelerate the implementation and dissemination of patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) into health care delivery through improvements in health care policy, payment, and practice, and to reduce health care disparities, especially among people who receive Medicaid, are uninsured, and/or are medically underserved.

*September 10- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$68 Million Awarded for Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Care Programs in support of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the Nation](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), recently awarded \$68 million in grants for suicide prevention and mental health care programs. Addressing the U.S. mental health crisis and preventing suicide are top priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration and part of President Biden's [Unity Agenda](#).

*September 12- [CMS Approves New Hampshire's Request to Provide Essential Behavioral Health Services Through Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams](#). *Thanks to the Biden-Harris American Rescue Plan, twenty states are now providing these critical services to individuals experiencing mental health or substance use disorders.* The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), approved New Hampshire's Medicaid State Plan Amendment for community-based mobile crisis intervention teams to provide services for people experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis.

*September 12- [HHS Finalizes Rule on Research Misconduct to Foster Research Integrity](#). *ORI issued the 2024 Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct to increase transparency, efficiency, and objectivity in research misconduct proceedings.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of Research Integrity (ORI), finalized the 2024 Public Health Service (PHS) Policies on Research Misconduct. This rule updates the 2005 regulation and clarifies requirements for addressing research misconduct in PHS-funded research.

*September 12- [HHS launches \\$7.25 million KidneyX Sustainability Prize](#). *Challenge seeks solutions that reduce water or power used during dialysis.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched the [KidneyX Sustainability Prize](#) (*opens to an external link*), a \$7.25 million challenge to drive meaningful change in the sustainability of kidney care. This challenge, the latest initiative from [the Kidney Innovation Accelerator \(KidneyX\)](#), aims to seize opportunities for sustainability by identifying and supporting solutions to reduce the resource demands of maintenance dialysis.

*September 12- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Notice of Violation to Puerto Rico Psychiatric Hospital for Failure to Comply with Federal Civil Rights Laws on Disability](#). *OCR takes enforcement action against San Juan Capistrano Hospital to strengthen access to health*

services and ensure effective communication for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced the issuance of a Letter of Finding and Notice of Violation against the San Juan Capestrano Hospital, following a thorough investigation, for violating disability civil rights laws when it failed to provide a patient with a sign language interpreter, under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (Section 1557), laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.

*September 12- [Letter to Food Manufacturers and Retailers from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Folic Acid Awareness Week](#). Dear Food Manufacturers and Retailers: As we recognize Folic Acid Awareness Week, I call on all companies who manufacture or sell corn masa flour products to consider the important health benefits of folic acid for women of reproductive age and make a commitment this year to increase the availability of fortified products. Folic acid, a synthetic form of folate, is an important B vitamin essential to fetal development especially in the early weeks of pregnancy.¹ Pregnant women with folate insufficiency have a higher risk of giving birth to infants affected with neural tube defects, specifically spina bifida and anencephaly.