



CMS Snapshot

October 24-31, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, October 24 through 2pm Thursday, October 31, 2024.

News Releases

*October 24- [Statement from Secretary Xavier Becerra on IV Fluid Increase](#). Today, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in response to [new fluid supply increases](#) from Baxter, Inc..

*October 24- [HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Presented Prestigious Award to Dr. Clarice Reid](#). Last month, in honor of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Health, ADM Rachel L. Levine, MD, presented the Assistant Secretary for Health's (ASH) Exceptional Service Medallion to Dr. Clarice Reid, recognizing her for her outstanding contributions on behalf of the millions of people worldwide living with sickle cell disease (SCD).

*October 25- [Affordability and Choice Anchor Biden-Harris Administration's Launch of Window-shopping for 12th HealthCare.gov Marketplace Open Enrollment](#). Building on the Biden-Harris Administration's historic efforts to make high-quality, affordable health care coverage accessible for all Americans, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today launched window-shopping for millions of consumers to preview health coverage options available through the 2025 Open Enrollment Period for the [HealthCare.gov](#) Marketplaces. Open enrollment begins November 1 for [HealthCare.gov](#) and the 20 states that run their own marketplaces.

*October 29- [Medicare Shared Savings Program Continues to Deliver Meaningful Savings and High-Quality Health Care](#). *Program Saves Medicare More Than \$2.1 Billion in 2023, the Largest Savings in its History*. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) continues to save Medicare money while supporting high-quality care. The Shared Savings Program yielded more than \$2.1 billion in net savings in 2023 — the largest savings in the Shared Savings Program's history. In addition, Shared Savings Program Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are providing higher-quality care and supporting policies CMS has adopted to enhance primary

care, expand access to accountable care to underserved communities, and prioritize quality care for common chronic conditions.

*October 31- [CFPB and CMS Take Action to Stop Illegal Billing of Lowest-Income Medicare Recipients](#). *New statement warns healthcare providers, Medicare Advantage plans, and debt collectors about improper billing and collections.* WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [joint statement](#) to protect millions of people with Medicare living at or below the poverty line from unlawful medical bills. These people in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary group represent about one in eight Medicare recipients nationwide. Federal law generally prohibits healthcare providers who accept Medicare from billing these people – referred to as “QMBs” – for cost-sharing, such as co-pays or deductibles.

*October 31- [Statement from Secretary Xavier Becerra on IV Solution Production Resuming in North Carolina](#). Today, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in response to [Baxter Inc. announcing it has restarted IV solution manufacturing](#) at its North Cove, North Carolina facility following Hurricane Helene.

*October 31- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles Ransomware Cybersecurity Investigation for \\$500,000](#). *Settlement marks OCR's 6th ransomware enforcement action amid increase in large ransomware breaches in health care.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a settlement with Plastic Surgery Associates of South Dakota in Sioux Falls, for several potential violations of the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\) Security Rule](#), following its investigation into a ransomware attack breach by OCR. Ransomware and hacking are the primary cyber-threats in health care.

*October 31- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles HIPAA Ransomware Cybersecurity Investigation for \\$90,000](#). *Settlement with Bryan County Ambulance Authority marks OCR's 7th ransomware enforcement action and 1st enforcement action in OCR's Risk Analysis Initiative.* WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a settlement with Bryan County Ambulance Authority (BCAA), a provider of emergency medical services in Oklahoma for a potential violation of the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\) Security Rule](#). The settlement resolves an investigation concerning a ransomware attack on BCAA's information systems. Ransomware and hacking are the primary cyberthreats in health care.

*October 31- [HHS Awards \\$3.7B to Lower Home Energy Costs and Keep Households Safe and Healthy](#). WASHINGTON – Today, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released \$3.7 billion to the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP) to help households lower their home energy costs. The funds released today help households across the country maintain safe and healthy indoor temperatures, particularly during the winter season.

Fact Sheet

*October 25- [Marketplace 2025 Open Enrollment Fact Sheet](#). The Health Insurance Marketplace ^[1] Open Enrollment Period on [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) runs from November 1 to January 15. Consumers who select a plan by midnight December 15 (5 a.m. EST on December 16) can get full-year coverage that starts January 1, 2025. Consumers who select a plan after December 15, 2024, but before the deadline in January 2025, can have coverage that starts February 1, 2025.

Blogs

*October 24- [Preview 2025 plans & prices now!](#) Jump start Open Enrollment for 2025 coverage by previewing plans with personalized price **estimates** based on your estimated income and household size.

*October 24- [Real Stories of Savings from the Biden-Harris Administration's Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law](#). By: [The Inflation Reduction Act Team](#), *(IRA) Summary: Listen to stories that demonstrate how the Inflation Reduction Act allows individuals to prioritize their health and improve their quality of life.* The Biden-Harris Administration's Inflation Reduction Act is bringing real savings to Americans every day. Free recommended vaccines, a \$35 insulin cap, and lower out-of-pocket prescription drug costs are proving to be a huge relief to people with Medicare, allowing people to put their health first. Hear from six Medicare enrollees who have either had their out-of-pocket prescription drug costs capped or who take one of the 10 drugs Medicare has negotiated new, lower prices for. They shared their stories of dealing with high prescription costs while managing conditions like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

*October 28- [Supporting Families in Moments that Matter](#). By: [Caryn Marks](#), Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and [Lindsay Moore](#), Portfolio Lead, Birth of a Child Life Experience, Customer Experience Office, U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). *Summary: Newborn Supply Kit pilot results show reduced emotional and financial stress for new moms and improved trust in government.*