



CMS Snapshot

November 28- December 5, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, November 28 through 2pm Thursday, December 5, 2024.

News Releases

*November 29- [CMS Roundup \(November. 29, 2024\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*November 29- [Statement by Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine on World AIDS Day 2024](#). In commemoration of World AIDS Day on December 1, Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, released the following statement.

*December 2- [Statement from Secretary Becerra on World AIDS Day 2024](#). In commemoration of World AIDS Day 2024, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement:

*December 3- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Imposes a \\$1.19 Million Penalty Against Gulf Coast Pain Consultants for HIPAA Security Rule Violations](#). *Systemic HIPAA Security Rule violations lead to OCR's 6th penalty of the year.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a \$1.19 million civil monetary penalty against Gulf Coast Pain Consultants, LLC d/b/a Clearway Pain Solutions Institute (Gulf Coast Pain Consultants) in Florida, concerning violations of the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\) Security Rule](#), following receipt of a breach report that a former contractor for the company had impermissibly accessed their electronic record system.

*December 4- [Biden-Harris Administration Takes Next Steps to Increase Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatments](#). Today, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that two drug manufacturers with Food and Drug Administration-approved gene therapies for sickle cell disease have entered into agreements with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model.

*December 4- [Nearly 988,000 New Consumers Selected Affordable Health Coverage in ACA Marketplace So Far](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to creating a robust Marketplace Open Enrollment process for consumers so they can effortlessly purchase high-quality, affordable health care coverage. CMS reports that nearly

988,000^[1] consumers who do not currently have health care coverage through the individual market Marketplace have signed up for plan year 2025 coverage.

*December 5- [HHS Announces New Global Strategy to Promote Innovation, Cooperation, and Equity](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of Global Affairs (OGA), launched a new Global Strategy that expands the Department's focus, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, from not only responding to disease and outbreaks but increased emphasis on improving foundational support and proactively making communities healthier. Through international collaborations and initiatives, HHS can leverage U.S. scientific and technological expertise alongside key learnings from our global partners to improve health outcomes for a more-well society.

*December 5- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Letter to Health Care Officials to Clarify Civil Rights Language Access Requirements](#). *Providing language access services is essential for equitable outcomes and quality care for persons with limited English proficiency and persons with disabilities.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), issued a [“Dear Colleague” letter - PDF](#) to help federally funded health care providers, plan grantees, and others better understand their civil rights obligations under the new final rule on Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (“Section 1557”). Section 1557 provides nondiscrimination protections by requiring covered entities (e.g., recipients of Federal financial assistance, programs administered by HHS, and entities established under Title I of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)) to provide language assistance to individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) or disability.

*December 5- [New Dashboard to Track Progress Toward 50 Percent Reduction in Patient and Workforce Harm](#). Today, the [National Action Alliance for Patient and Workforce Safety \(NAA\)](#) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched the [National Healthcare Safety Dashboard](#), an online resource that aggregates hospital safety data from four primary measurement sources. Thus, the dashboard creates one comprehensive resource for understanding the current state of patient and workforce safety.

*December 5- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Imposes a \\$548,265 Penalty Against Children’s Hospital Colorado for HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules Violations](#). *Multiple HIPAA violations lead to OCR’s 7th penalty of the year.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a \$548,265 civil monetary penalty against Children’s Hospital Colorado, concerning violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) [Privacy](#) and [Security](#) Rules following receipt of breach reports in 2017 and 2020, relating to email phishing and cyberattacks . OCR enforces the [HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules](#), which set forth the requirements that covered entities (health plans, health care clearinghouses, and most health care providers), and business associates must follow to protect the privacy and security of protected health information (PHI).

Fact Sheets

*December 2- [CMS World AIDS HIV Day Fact Sheet](#). Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Fact Sheet. Introduction- Approximately 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV, which disproportionately affects men and underserved communities. While it was once a deadly diagnosis, HIV is now a health condition that people can manage through their lifetimes with access to safe, appropriate, high-quality treatment and support services. Thanks to the advancement of science, U=U, or undetectable equals untransmittable, means that people with HIV with an undetectable viral load cannot sexually transmit the virus to others, transforming lives and reducing stigma.

*December 4- [Marketplace 2025 Open Enrollment Period Report: National Snapshot](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that nearly 988,000 consumers who do not currently have health care coverage through the individual market Marketplace plans have signed up for coverage in 2025, since the start of the Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) on November 1. Existing consumers are also returning to the Marketplace to actively renew their coverage, and anyone who does not actively renew will be automatically re-enrolled for 2025. Nearly 4.4 million existing consumers have already returned to the Marketplace to select a plan for 2025.

Blogs

*December 1- [Only 2 weeks left for January 1 coverage](#). Apply for, renew, or change your Marketplace plan by *December 15* to make sure your coverage starts January 1.

*December 3- [New Year, New Savings thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act – What You Need to Know for 2025](#). By: [The Inflation Reduction Act Team](#), *(IRA) Summary: How the Inflation Reduction Act is Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for People with Medicare*.

*December 5- [Act now: Enroll by December 15 for coverage that starts January 1!](#) Don't wait—time is running out! The December 15 deadline to apply, renew, or make changes for Marketplace coverage starting January 1 is fast approaching. Take action now to ensure you don't experience any gaps in your coverage.