



CMS Snapshot

January 18-25, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 18 through 2pm Thursday, January 25, 2024.

News Releases

*January 19- [CMS Announces Model to Advance Integration in Behavioral Health](#). *New model seeks to improve quality of care, access, and outcomes for people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders in Medicaid and Medicare.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is announcing a new model to test approaches for addressing the behavioral and physical health, as well as health-related social needs, of people with Medicaid and Medicare. The Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH) Model's goal is to improve the overall quality of care and outcomes for adults with mental health conditions and/or substance use disorder by connecting them with the physical, behavioral, and social supports needed to manage their care. The model will also promote health information technology (health IT) capacity building through infrastructure payments and other activities.

*January 22- [CMS Announces New Actions to Help Hospitals Meet Obligations under EMTALA](#). *The Department, through CMS, will launch a new effort to support patients, hospitals, and providers to help ensure access to emergency health care.* Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that, together with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), it will launch a series of actions to educate the public about their rights to emergency medical care and to help support efforts of hospitals to meet their obligations under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA).

*January 22- [Statement from Secretary Becerra on the Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Decision](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision.

*January 22- [HHS Releases the Initial Implementation and Impact Report for the First-Ever Federal Water Assistance Program](#). *Report shows program served over one million households in its first year of implementation.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), released the initial Low-

Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Implementation and Impact Report. The report shows that, the program served over one million households by the end of June 2023, less than one year after all grant recipients started providing benefits. In addition to the report, HHS also released an update to the [LIHWAP Data Dashboard](#) .

*January 22- [Readout of HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's Meeting with Canada's Minister of Health](#). On January 12th, U.S. Secretary of Health Xavier Becerra spoke with Canadian Health Minister Mark Holland regarding the recent announcement on commercial drug importation from Canada by U.S. states. During the call, they agreed to continue to discuss mechanisms and strategize on finding solutions to combat increasing drug prices to ensure that both Americans and Canadians have access to an affordable and stable drug supply. Secretary Becerra and Minister Holland committed to keeping in close contact to ensure a mutually beneficial path forward.

January 23- [Readout of HHS Meeting with Health Care Providers on COVID-19 Therapeutics Commercialization](#). *Leaders from both HHS and Pfizer highlighted the importance of continued affordable and equitable access to Paxlovid as it transitions to the commercial market.* On Monday, January 22, HHS and Pfizer leadership met virtually with health care provider groups, including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, and others – highlighting the pathways for a smooth transition of oral antivirals for COVID-19, including Paxlovid, to the commercial market and the importance of provider education and clear communication to consumers.

*January 23- [ICYMI: During Three-Day Reproductive Health Series, Secretary Becerra Talks with Patients, Providers, and Policymakers about the Impact of the Supreme Court's Dobb's Decision on Access to Care](#). Last week, ahead of the 51st anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra embarked on a three-day, three-state Reproductive Health Care Series where he spoke with patients, providers, policymakers, and others on how the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* has impacted access to reproductive health care, including abortion and contraception.

*January 24- [Historic 21.3 Million People Choose ACA Marketplace Coverage](#). *Marketplace enrollment climbs nearly 5 million higher than previous year.* The Biden-Harris Administration announced 21.3 million people selected an Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace plan during the 2024 Open Enrollment Period. Total plan selections include more than five million people — about a fourth — who are new to the Marketplaces and 16 million people who renewed their coverage. Notably, open enrollment continues in four states and Washington, D.C., through January 31.

*January 24- [CMS Announces \\$50 Million in Grants to Deliver Critical School-Based Health Services to Children](#). *Grants will help up to 20 states implement or expand school-based health services for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),

announced \$50 million in grants for states to connect millions more children to critical health care services, particularly for mental health, at school. Made possible by the historic investments of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), the grants will provide 20 states up to \$2.5 million each in funding that can help states implement, enhance, and expand the use of school-based health services through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

*January 25- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Guidance to the Nation's Hospital and Long-Term Care Facility Administrators Clarifying Their Obligations to Ensure Religious Non-Discrimination in Patient Visitation](#). *Action supports Biden-Harris Administration's first-ever U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism and its broader work to counter hate of all kinds.* Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is issuing guidance to U.S. hospital and long-term care facility administrators, reminding organizations of their independent obligations under Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations to ensure that facility visitation policies, including during a public health emergency, do not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of religion; as well as their obligation not to discriminate on other protected bases under federal civil rights laws, against patients or other individuals receiving care. HHS committed to providing this guidance as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's first-ever [U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism - PDF](#).

Fact Sheet

*January 24- [Marketplace 2024 Open Enrollment Period Report: Final National Snapshot](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that 21.3 million consumers have signed up for 2024 individual market health insurance coverage through the Marketplaces since the start of the 2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) on November 1.

Blog

*January 25- [It's tax season! Check your mail for Form 1095-A](#). Did someone in your household have a Marketplace plan in 2023? When you file your taxes, you'll need Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace® Statement. This form comes from the Marketplace, not the IRS.