



CMS Snapshot

February 15-22, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, February 15 through 2pm Thursday, February 22, 2024.

News Releases

*February 15- [CMS Issues Additional Guidance on Program to Allow People with Medicare to Pay Out-of-Pocket Prescription Drug Costs in Monthly Payments](#). *The Inflation Reduction Act's Medicare Prescription Payment Plan will allow people to pay Medicare Part D out-of-pocket costs over the course of the year starting in 2025.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the second part of draft guidance for the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan that outlines requirements for Medicare Part D plan sponsors, including outreach and education requirements, pharmacy processes, and operational considerations, for the program's first year, 2025. The draft guidance is part of the implementation of President Biden's prescription drug law, the Inflation Reduction Act, which will help reduce the burden of high upfront out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for seniors and people with disabilities with Medicare prescription drug coverage by allowing them to spread out costs over the year rather than requiring they pay in one lump sum.

*February 16- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards \\$5.1M in Support of LGBTQI+ Youth and Families](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced four awards totaling \$5.1 million for [Family Counseling and Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex+ Youth and their Families](#).

*February 21- [HHS' Office for Civil Rights Settles Second Ever Ransomware Cyber-Attack](#). *OCR settles a ransomware investigation that affected over 14,000 individuals.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a settlement under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) with Green Ridge Behavioral Health, LLC, a Maryland-based practice that provides psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and psychotherapy. OCR enforces the [HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules](#), which sets forth the requirements that HIPAA covered entities (most health care providers, health plans, and health care clearinghouses) and their

business associates must follow to protect the privacy and security of protected health information.

*February 22- [HHS Announces Proposed Rule Requiring States to Collect Additional Information on American Indian/Alaska Native Youth Entering the Foster Care System or Adoption Process.](#) *Additional Data Will Provide a Better Understanding of American Indian/Alaska Native Children Interacting with the State Child Welfare Systems.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), [proposed a rule](#) to increase data collection on American Indian/Alaska Native children's status and experiences. This proposed rule aims to augment information submitted by states to ACF's Children's Bureau for inclusion in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) report.

*February 22- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Delivers Annual Reports to Congress on HIPAA Compliance and Breaches of Unsecured Protected Health Information.](#) *Reports highlight for regulated entities where to focus HIPAA compliance efforts.* On February 14, 2024, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office for Civil Rights issued two Reports to Congress on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) compliance and enforcement, specifically, on *HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rule Compliance and Breaches of Unsecured Protected Health Information*. These reports are required to be submitted to Congress annually by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009.

Blogs

*February 15- [Black History Month; Recognizing Contributions and Continuing the Fight Against Health Inequities.](#) By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR). *Summary: OCR recognizes presidential Proclamation on National Black History Month, 2024.* As we celebrate Black History Month, we reflect on the role of my office, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR), in advancing racial equity and remaining committed to the enforcement of federal civil rights laws to ensure nondiscrimination based on race, color, and national origin. This month and throughout the year, our office recognizes the countless contributions of Black Americans, the historic fight for equality, and the work ahead to address health inequities for Black Americans.

*February 22- [Health insurance and your taxes.](#) If you had Marketplace coverage at any point in 2023 and got the premium tax credit, here's what you need to know about filing your federal taxes.