



CMS Snapshot

January 25-February 1, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 25 through 2pm Thursday, February 1, 2024.

News Releases

*January 25- [Biden-Harris Administration Launches Effort to Increase Medicare Advantage Transparency](#). *CMS Announces Data RFI to Improve Data Sharing and Enhance Competition*. On December 7, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced new actions](#) to promote competition in health care, including increasing transparency in the Medicare Advantage (MA) insurance market and strengthening MA programmatic data. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is continuing momentum in this area by releasing a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit feedback from the public on how best to enhance MA data capabilities and increase public transparency.

*January 26- [CMS Roundup \(Jan. 26, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*January 29- [Participation Continues to Grow in CMS' Accountable Care Organization Initiatives in 2024](#). *Advance Investment Payments Will Help ACOs Join the Shared Savings Program*. Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced increased participation in CMS' accountable care organization (ACO) initiatives in 2024, which will increase the quality of care for more people with Medicare. Of note, CMS is announcing that 19 newly formed accountable care organizations (ACOs) in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) are participating in a new, permanent payment option beginning in 2024 that is enabling these ACOs to receive more than \$20 million in advance investment payments (AIPs) for caring for underserved populations.

*January 29- [Readout of HHS Officials' Meeting with Private Sector and Patient Advocacy Leaders to Improve National Access to Important Asthma Medications](#). On Tuesday, January 23, 2024, officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including those from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), met with representatives from leading patient advocacy organizations, provider groups, and health insurers to discuss solutions that

help guarantee nationwide access to medications that help manage asthma and eosinophilic esophagitis in children.

*January 30- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Action to Increase Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatments](#). The Biden-Harris Administration announced today that sickle cell disease (SCD) will be the first focus of the Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) Access Model, which was [initially announced](#) in February 2023. The model is designed to improve health outcomes, increase access to cell and gene therapies, and lower health care costs for some of the nation's most vulnerable populations.

*January 30- [HHS Announces Department Actions to Slow Surging Syphilis Epidemic](#). *U.S. syphilis cases reach highest levels since the 1950s, creating a critical public health need.* In response to the surging number of syphilis and congenital syphilis cases nationwide, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is taking action to slow the spread with a focus on those most significantly impacted. Through the establishment of the [National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic \(NSCSS\) Federal Task Force](#), the Department is utilizing its agencies, its expertise, and its stakeholder network to respond to the U.S. syphilis and congenital syphilis epidemic. The actions of the Task Force leverage federal resources to reduce rates, promote health equity, engage impacted communities and direct resources to support those most impacted.

*January 31- [CMS Releases Proposed Payment Updates for 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Programs](#). *Proposed policies would continue to ensure the strength and stability of Medicare Advantage and Part D programs.* Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Advance Notice for the Medicare Advantage (MA) and Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Programs that would update payment policies for these programs. The Advance Notice complements a [proposed rule](#), also for CY 2025, that CMS released in November 2023 that would, if finalized, strengthen protections for the millions of people who rely on MA and Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. MA payments from the government to MA plans are expected to increase on average by 3.70 percent, or over \$16 billion, from 2024 to 2025, as proposed.

January 31- [Biden-Harris Administration is Strengthening Medicare; Protecting and Serving America's Seniors](#). The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to protecting and strengthening Medicare. While Congressional Republicans support measures to put Medicare on the chopping block and roll back reductions in drug prices offered through the Inflation Reduction Act, the Administration's commitment to the more than 65 million Americans with Medicare, and to future beneficiaries, remains unwavering. This includes making sure Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage are both strong and stable.

*February 1- [Biden-Harris Administration to Make First Offer for Drug Price Negotiation Program, Launches New Resource Hub to Help People Access Lower-Cost Drugs](#). *HHS also releases new research showing that the United States pays three times more for prescription*

drugs than other developed nations, and nearly ten times more for insulin than other developed nations. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is sending initial offers to the participating drug companies of the first 10 prescription drugs selected for negotiation in the first cycle of the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program. Thanks to the President's lower cost prescription drug law - the Inflation Reduction Act - Medicare now has the power to negotiate prescription drug prices directly with drug companies, similar to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies that already negotiate drug prices. These initial offers represent the latest major milestone in implementing this historic law.

*February 1- [Biden-Harris Administration Marks Two Years of Advancements in HHS' Overdose Prevention Strategy with New Actions to Treat Addiction and Save Lives](#). 2023 OPS Fact Sheet ([link to 2022 fact sheet](#)). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) marked two years of its [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#) (Strategy) by announcing bold new actions to combat overdoses. Actions announced today build on President Biden's [National Drug Control Strategy - PDF](#) and his [Unity Agenda](#) call-to-action to address the overdose epidemic and save lives.

*February 1- [2023 List of Accomplishments: Biden-Harris Administration Marks Two Years of Advancements in HHS' Overdose Prevention Strategy with New Actions to Treat Addiction and Save Lives](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) marked two years of its [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#) (Strategy) by announcing bold new actions to combat overdoses. These actions include finalizing [a rule](#) that will dramatically expand access to life-saving medications for opioid use disorder, announcing that certain grant funds may now be used to purchase xylazine test strips (XTS), and releasing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) updated [Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit](#). Actions announced today build on President Biden's [National Drug Control Strategy - PDF](#) and his [Unity Agenda](#) call-to-action to address the overdose epidemic and save lives.

*February 1- [Biden-Harris Administration Marks Two Years of Advancements in HHS' Overdose Prevention Strategy with New Actions to Treat Addiction and Save Lives](#). *Continuing to build on unprecedented action to expand access to substance use disorder treatment, the Biden-Harris Administration finalizes historic updates to decades-old federal regulations for opioid treatment programs. HHS also announces certain grant funds may be used to purchase xylazine test strips to detect dangerous substance in illicit drug supply.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) marked two years of its [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#) (Strategy) by announcing bold new actions to combat overdoses. These actions include finalizing [a rule](#) that will dramatically expand access to life-saving medications for opioid use disorder, announcing that certain grant funds may now be used to purchase xylazine test strips (XTS), and releasing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) updated [Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit](#). Actions announced today build on President Biden's [National](#)

[Drug Control Strategy - PDF](#) and his [Unity Agenda](#) call-to-action to address the overdose epidemic and save lives.

Fact Sheets

*January 31- [Draft CY 2025 Part D Redesign Program Instructions Fact Sheet](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Draft Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Part D Redesign Program Instructions concurrently with the Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for CY 2025 for Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the Advance Notice). CMS will accept comments on the Draft CY 2025 Part D Redesign Program Instructions through 6:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, March 1, 2024, before publishing the final program instructions no later than April 1, 2024.

*January 31- [2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice Fact Sheet](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Advance Notice of Methodological Changes for Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (the Advance Notice). CMS will accept comments on the CY 2025 Advance Notice through 6:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, March 1, 2024, before publishing the final Rate Announcement on or before April 1, 2024.