



CMS Snapshot

March 7-14, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 7 through 2pm Thursday, March 14, 2024.

News Releases

*March 8- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Utah’s Medicaid and CHIP Postpartum Coverage Expansion; 45 States Now Offer Full Year of Coverage After Pregnancy](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced Utah’s extension of comprehensive coverage for postpartum individuals for a full 12 months through Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Today’s announcement marks critical progress in implementing the [CMS Maternity Care Action Plan](#), which supports the [Biden-Harris Administration’s Maternal Health Blueprint](#), a comprehensive strategy to improve maternal health, particularly in underserved communities. Utah is the 45th state to be approved for the extended coverage, made possible by President Biden’s American Rescue Plan (ARP), and made permanent by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023), which President Biden signed into law in December, 2022.

*March 8- [CMS Roundup \(Mar. 8, 2024\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*March 8- [HHS Announces New Smoking Cessation Framework to Support Quitting](#). *All people in America should have access to comprehensive, evidence-based cessation treatment.* Washington, D.C. – Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services unveiled a new Framework to accelerate smoking cessation and reduce smoking- and cessation-related disparities. This action is part of a broader Department-wide effort to advance the Biden Cancer Moonshot goal of reducing the death rate from cancer by at least half over 25 years.

*March 8- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra’s Statement on Women’s History Month](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in honor of Women’s History Month, celebrated every year in the United States throughout the month of March, and in recognition of International Day of Women on March 8, 2023.

*March 9- [CMS Statement on Continued Action to Respond to the Cyberattack on Change Healthcare](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is continuing to monitor and assess the impact that the cyberattack on UnitedHealth Group's subsidiary Change Healthcare has had on all provider and supplier types. Today, CMS is announcing that, in addition to considering applications for accelerated payments for Medicare Part A providers, we will also be considering applications for advance payments for Part B suppliers.

*March 10- [Letter to Health Care Leaders on Cyberattack on Change Healthcare](#). Dear Health Care Leaders, As you know, last month Change Healthcare was the target of a cyberattack that has had significant impacts on much of the nation's health care system. The effects of this attack are far-reaching; Change Healthcare, owned by UnitedHealth Group (UHG), processes 15 billion health care transactions annually and is involved in one in every three patient records. The attack has impacted payments to hospitals, physicians, pharmacists, and other health care providers across the country. Many of these providers are concerned about their ability to offer care in the absence of timely payments, but providers persist despite the need for numerous onerous workarounds and cash flow uncertainty.

*March 11- [Statement by Secretary Becerra on the President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget](#). *HHS-specific budget investments will expand access care, lower health care costs, strengthen supports for children and families, and more.* The Biden-Harris Administration today released the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. Following historic progress made since the President took office—with nearly 15 million jobs created and inflation down two-thirds—the Budget protects and builds on this progress by lowering costs for working families, protecting and strengthening Social Security and Medicare, investing in America and the American people, and reducing the deficit by cracking down on fraud, cutting wasteful spending, and making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share. The Budget makes critical, targeted investments in the American people that will promote greater prosperity for decades to come at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

*March 12- [CMS Statement Following Health Care Payer and Provider Roundtable on the Cyberattack on Change Healthcare](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure participated in a roundtable with senior Administration leaders to hear from health care providers about the challenges they are experiencing following the cyberattack on UnitedHealth Group's subsidiary Change Healthcare, and to urge health insurers to do more to support affected providers and suppliers.

*March 12- [Readout of Biden-Harris Administration Convening with Health Care Community Concerning Cyberattack on Change Healthcare](#). *Leaders from HHS, White House, DOL, and the health care community convened to discuss ways to mitigate harms to patient and providers caused by the cyberattack.* On Tuesday, March 12, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm, led a convening of health care community leaders – joined by White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden, White House Deputy National Security Advisor (DNSA) for Cyber and Emerging Technologies

Anne Neuberger, and others from the federal government – to discuss concrete actions to mitigate harms to patients and providers caused by the cyberattack on Change Healthcare.

*March 13- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Letter and Opens Investigation of Change Healthcare Cyberattack](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued a "Dear Colleague" letter addressing the cybersecurity incident impacting Change Healthcare, a unit of UnitedHealthcare Group (UHG), and many other health care entities. The cyberattack is disrupting health care and billing information operations nationwide and poses a direct threat to critically needed patient care and essential operations of the health care industry.

Fact Sheets

*March 9- [Change Healthcare/Optum Payment Disruption \(CHOPD\) Accelerated Payments to Part A Providers and Advance Payments to Part B Suppliers](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recognizes the impact that the cyberattack on UnitedHealth Group's subsidiary Change Healthcare/Optum in late February (the Incident) has had on health care operations across the country.

*March 11- [Fact Sheet: The Biden-Harris Administration Urges Congress to Lower Drug Costs for Americans with Commercial Insurance](#). President Biden's prescription drug law, the Inflation Reduction Act, was signed into law on August 16, 2022. This new law provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by expanding benefits, lowering drug costs, and strengthening Medicare for the future.

*March 13- [Change Healthcare/ Optum Payment Disruption \(CHOPD\) Accelerated and Advance Payments for Part A Providers and Part B Suppliers Frequently Asked Questions](#).

*March 13- [Fact Sheet: In Vitro Fertilization \(IVF\) Use Across the United States](#).