



CMS Snapshot

March 21-28, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 21 through 2pm Thursday, March 28, 2024.

News Releases

*March 22- [In Celebration of 10 Years of ACA Marketplaces, the Biden-Harris Administration Releases Historic Enrollment Data](#). *Under President Biden, over 45 million people have coverage thanks to the Affordable Care Act and key actions taken under the Administration to strengthen the law.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued four new reports showing that President Biden's efforts to strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are linked to historic gains in Americans' health insurance coverage. Today's announcements include a report from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) showing that over 21 million consumers selected or were automatically re-enrolled in health insurance coverage through HealthCare.gov and State-based Marketplaces during 2024's Open Enrollment Period (OEP).

*March 22- [CMS Roundup \(Mar. 22, 2024\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*March 22- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$39.4 Million in Funding Opportunities for Grants to Help Advance the President's Unity Agenda](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), has announced notices of funding opportunities for grant programs addressing behavioral health across the country. The grant opportunities total \$39.4 million and are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to beat the overdose epidemic and tackle the mental health crisis – two key pillars of the President's Unity Agenda for the nation.

*March 22- [WHIAANHPI Announces New Steps to Support Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Students, Educators, and Academic Institutions](#). *White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management to host historic leadership development summit for higher education leaders, administrators, and faculty in April 2024. Convening will deepen the Biden-Harris Administration's collaboration with Minority-Serving Institutions.* Today, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) announced

that it will convene higher education leaders from across the nation on April 2, 2024, for a historic leadership development summit at the University of California, Berkeley.

*March 23- [Readout of HHS Roundtable with Africa CDC on Ongoing Global Health Security Partnership](#). On Saturday, March 23, 2024, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm met with Director-General Jean Kaseya of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to recognize our historic relationship and ongoing partnership. Deputy Secretary Palm led a delegation to Ethiopia that included Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs Loyce Pace and Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr. Mandy Cohen. The meeting with Africa CDC was part of a larger engagement comprised of meetings and site visits with Ethiopian health officials and longstanding program partners.

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*March 26- [HHS Announces Savings for 41 Prescription Drugs Thanks to Inflation Rebates from the Biden-Harris Administration's Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law](#). *Under the Inflation Reduction Act, people with Medicare may pay a lower coinsurance for some Part B drugs if the drug's price increases faster than the rate of inflation.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), today announced 41 drugs available through Medicare Part B will have a lowered Part B coinsurance rate from April 1 – June 30, 2024, if the drug company raises prices faster than the rate of inflation. An estimated 763,700 people with Medicare use one or more of these drugs annually.

*March 27- [Biden-Harris Administration Builds on the Success of the Affordable Care Act by Streamlining Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP Coverage](#). The Biden-Harris Administration today unveiled a final rule that will protect and improve how millions of eligible people apply for, renew, and maintain health care coverage through Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Basic Health Program (BHP). The *Streamlining the Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and Basic Health Program Application, Eligibility Determination, Enrollment, and Renewal Processes* rule will remove red tape and barriers to enrollment, update and build on the Affordable Care Act's (ACA's) coverage protections and ensure that millions of Americans can get and keep their coverage.

*March 27- [New Federal Health IT Strategy Sets Sights on a Healthier, More Innovative, and More Equitable Health Care Experience](#). *ONC seeks public comment by May 28, 2024.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), today released the [draft 2024–2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan](#) (the draft Plan) for public comment.

*March 28- [Biden-Harris Administration Protects Consumers from Low-Quality Coverage by Limiting “Junk” Health Plans](#). Today, the Biden-Harris Administration is taking yet another action to lower health care costs and protect consumers from being scammed into purchasing lower quality insurance, or “junk insurance”. The Biden-Harris Administration is closing loopholes to prevent health insurance companies from misleading consumers into buying health plans that discriminate based on pre-existing conditions and that provide little or no coverage when consumers need it the most. Today’s action will protect families from receiving thousands of dollars in health care bills.

*March 28- [HHS Takes Additional Actions to Help People Stay Covered During Medicaid and CHIP Renewals](#). *HHS Extends Special Enrollment Period to Help People Transition to the Marketplaces, Issues New Resources for Partners, and Publishes Guidance Reinforcing Key Federal Requirements.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced additional actions it is taking to help people maintain coverage as states continue Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility renewals, which restarted across the country last spring following a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today’s actions will continue and extend a previously announced flexibility to make it easier for people to transition to Health Insurance Marketplace^[1] coverage through 2024, help more people with Medicaid and CHIP navigate renewals, and reinforce important federal requirements that are crucial for protecting coverage in states during and beyond “Medicaid unwinding.”

*March 28- [HHS Secretary Becerra Announces Michigan as First State to Implement Kinship Care Rule](#). *Leads the way in transforming kinship care practices for underserved communities.* Today, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra announces approval for Michigan to become the first state to implement separate licensing standards for kin caregivers. Michigan is the first state approved following the Salt River Pima Tribe in Arizona. Last September, HHS finalized a new regulation that allows a child welfare agency to adopt simpler licensing or approval standards for all kin foster family homes as well as requiring that states provide kin caregivers with the same level of financial assistance that any other foster care provider receives. This rule and approval of state’s and jurisdiction’s plans, fulfill executive orders by President Biden and align with the administration’s priorities to keep families together and increase equity in the child welfare system.

Fact Sheets

*March 27- [Fiscal Year 2025 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule \(CMS-1804-P\)](#). On March 27, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to update Medicare payment policies and rates under the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) and the IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) for fiscal year (FY) 2025. CMS is publishing this proposed rule in accordance with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for IRFs on an annual basis.

*March 27- [Streamlining the Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and Basic Health Program Application, Eligibility Determination, Enrollment, and Renewal Processes Final Rule Fact Sheet](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing the *Streamlining Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and Basic Health Program Application, Eligibility Determination, Enrollment, and Renewal Processes* (CMS-2421-F2) final rule. This final rule will make it easier for millions of eligible people to enroll in and retain their Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Basic Health Program (BHP) coverage.

*March 28- [Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance and Independent, Noncoordinated Excepted Benefits Coverage \(CMS-9904-F\) Fact Sheet](#). On March 28, 2024, the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury (collectively, the Departments) released final rules regarding short-term, limited-duration insurance (STLDI) and independent, noncoordinated excepted benefits coverage. These final rules finalize some of the amendments set forth in the July 12, 2023, proposed rules.¹¹ These regulatory amendments further the goals of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by improving access to affordable and comprehensive coverage, strengthening health insurance markets, and promoting consumer understanding of their coverage options.

Blog

*March 26- [Calling innovators! HHS Long COVID Healthathon launches with \\$25K in prizes](#).
By: [Kathleen Carroll](#), U.S. Digital Corps Fellow, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Allison O'Donnell](#), Deputy Director, Office of Long COVID Research and Practice, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services and [Kristen Honey PhD, PMP](#), Chief Data Scientist. **Summary:** Join the Long COVID Healthathon today at LongCOVID.Crowdicity.com and learn how your solutions could win a portion of the \$25,000 prize pool. Rigorous science takes time, yet people with Long COVID need help today. To address that need, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) launched [the Long COVID Healthathon](#) .