



CMS Snapshot

April 18-25, 2024

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

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

News Releases

*April 19- [CMS Roundup \(April 19, 2024\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency. CMS Releases Medicaid School-Based Services Technical Assistance Center FAQs. April 5: CMS released the first set of Medicaid School-Based Services (SBS) Technical Assistance Center (TAC) [FAQs](#), which are comprised of the most commonly asked questions the TAC receives from state Medicaid agencies, local education agencies (LEAs), and school-based entities as they work to provide greater assistance to children enrolled in Medicaid.

*April 22- [Biden-Harris Administration Takes Historic Action to Increase Access Quality Care, and Support to Families and Care Workers](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), today issued three final rules to fulfill President Biden's commitment to support family caregivers, boost compensation and job quality for care workers, expand and improve care options, and improve the safety and quality of care in federally-funded nursing homes. The actions, announced during [Care Workers Recognition Month](#) and [the Month of Action on Care](#), represent a transformational investment to support America's families and workers.

*April 22- [ONC Releases Common Agreement Version 2.0 Paving the Way for TEFCA Exchange via FHIR](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and its Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE™), The Sequoia Project, Inc., announced today that Common Agreement Version 2.0 (CA v2.0) has been [released](#). The Common Agreement establishes the technical infrastructure model and governing approach for different health information networks and their users to securely share clinical information with each other – all under commonly agreed-to rules-of-the-road. The seven designated Qualified Health Information Networks™ (QHINs™) under the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common AgreementSM (TEFCASM) can now adopt and begin implementing the new version.

*April 22- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's Statement on Earth Day](#). Between the sandy depths of the ocean floor and the outermost layer of our atmosphere, our world gives us everything we need to thrive – the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food that nourishes us, and the foundations of our lifesaving medicines. As we celebrate Earth Day, it's important to remember that our health and the health of our planet are inextricably linked – we owe it to our communities and future generations to take better care of our shared home.

*April 22- [The Biden-Harris Administration Issues a New Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy Under HIPAA](#). Today, the Biden-Harris Administration, through the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a Final Rule, entitled *HIPAA Privacy Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy*. The Final Rule strengthens the Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule by prohibiting the disclosure of protected health information (PHI) related to lawful reproductive health care in certain circumstances.

*April 22- [HHS Marks Earth Day with Programming to Reduce Sector-Wide Emissions and Tools to Address Extreme Heat](#). (Washington, DC) - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is marking Earth Day by introducing new programming to help the health sector reduce its significant carbon footprint and increase utilization of the historic opportunities for investments in resilience and sustainability created by the Biden-Harris Administration's historic Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). It is also releasing tools to help the country prepare for the climate-related challenges brought on by the summer season, especially extreme heat.

*April 22- [HHS Celebrates Earth Day with Fact Sheet of Accomplishments](#). Increasingly, climate change and environmental hazards threaten the health of people in the United States and around the world. HHS and the entire Biden-Harris Administration have mobilized to address these challenges in the most vulnerable communities, to build resilience in healthcare systems and to accelerate decarbonization of the healthcare sector.

*April 23- [HHS Finalizes Rule to Strengthen Services and Protection to Unaccompanied Children in Its Care](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) displayed its [Unaccompanied Children Program Foundational Rule](#), which sets clear standards and protections and enhances the legal framework governing the Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program.

*April 23- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$700 Million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding, Partnership with Bureau of Reclamation at White House Clean Water Summit](#). In a significant stride towards ensuring essential water and sanitation infrastructure throughout Indian Country, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Indian Health Service (IHS) announced \$700 million in funding allocation from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and a newly signed memorandum of understanding with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) at the first-ever White House Clean Water Summit today. This collaboration

further supports President Biden's [Executive Order](#) which directs federal agencies to work together to remove barriers and streamline Tribal access to resources.

*April 23- [Biden-Harris Administration Releases National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and First-Ever Federal Action Plan](#). Today, the Biden Harris Administration, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the 2024 *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (National Strategy)* and accompanying *Federal Action Plan*. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (Action Alliance), led the development of these critical deliverables which support the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to address the overdose and mental health crises, key pillars of the Biden-Harris Unity Agenda. An Interagency Work Group (IWG), comprised of over 20 agencies in 10 federal departments across the government contributed to the development of the *National Strategy*.

*April 24- [WHIAANHPI and SmithsonianAPA Unveil Joint Theme for 2024 Asian America, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: 'Bridging Histories, Shaping Our Future'](#). Today, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center are proud to present our joint 2024 theme for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) Heritage Month: "Bridging Histories, Shaping Our Future."

*April 25- [Biden-Harris Administration Partners with States and Releases Date Recommendations to Strengthen the Direct Care Workforce](#). As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's [Care Workers Recognition Month](#) activities and in support of President Biden's [Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers](#), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced today that 20 states have been selected to participate in two separate technical assistance programs that together will help participating states better recruit, train, and retain direct care workers, who provide home and community-based services (HCBS) for older adults and people with disabilities. Both programs are offered through the Administration for Community Living's [Direct Care Workforce \(DCW\) Strategies Center](#). HHS also announced the first members of the advisory committee that will guide the center's work.

*April 25- [CMS Statement on Proposed Local Coverage Determination \(LCD\) for Skin Substitute Grafts/Cellular and Tissue-Based Products for the Treatment of Diabetic Foot Ulcers and Venous Leg Ulcers](#). CMS is aware that on April 25, 2024, the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) released a proposed [Local Coverage Determination \(LCD\)](#) to provide appropriate coverage for skin substitute grafts used for chronic non-healing diabetic foot and venous leg ulcers. The MACs issued the collaborative proposed Skin Substitute Grafts/Cellular and Tissue-Based Products for the Treatment of Diabetic Foot Ulcers (DFUs) and Venous Leg Ulcers (VLUs) LCD to make sure that Medicare covers, and people with Medicare have access to, skin substitute products that are supported by evidence that shows that they are reasonable and

necessary for the treatment of diabetic foot and venous leg ulcers in the Medicare population and that coverage aligns with professional guidelines for appropriately managing these wounds.

Fact Sheets

*April 22- [Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services Final Rule \(CMS-2442-F\)](#). Ensuring beneficiaries can access covered services is a critical function of the Medicaid program and a top priority of the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Executive Order 14009 in 2021 established the policy objective to protect and strengthen Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and to make high-quality health care accessible and affordable for every American

*April 22- [Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality Final Rule \(CMS-2439-F\)](#). Managed care is the predominant delivery system in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), with over 70% of Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries receiving some or all of their care through a managed care plan.^{[1],[2]} In recent years, CMS and states have strived to ensure beneficiaries’ access to high-quality care, ensure adequate provider payment, and provide comprehensive program monitoring and oversight.

*April 22-[Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting Final Rule \(CMS 3442-4\)](#). On April 22, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) affirmed its commitment to hold nursing homes accountable for providing safe and high-quality care for the nearly 1.2 million residents living in Medicare- and Medicaid-certified long-term care facilities by issuing the Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting final rule.

Blogs

*April 18-[Preventive services you don’t want to skip](#). Put your health first – get free preventive services. Screenings, check-ups, counseling, and keeping a healthy lifestyle can help you avoid more serious illnesses. You and your doctor can decide which services are right for you. Remember that services are free only when delivered by a doctor or other provider in your plan’s network.

*April 19- [Syphilis Is a Public Health Priority](#). *By Rachel Levine M.D.* As a sexually transmitted infection (STI), syphilis is a public health threat in the United States, and it has reached a crisis level. Cases of syphilis in the U.S. have reached their highest levels since the 1950s, and, heartbreakingly, cases of syphilis among newborns have gone up more than tenfold over the

past 10 years. So, this [STI Awareness Week](#), I joined partners across the country to raise awareness of syphilis and congenital syphilis and what individuals, clinicians, and organizations can do to reduce it.

*April 19- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Creates FAQ Webpage in Response to the Change Healthcare Cyberattack](#). *By HHS Office for Civil Rights.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) posted a new [webpage](#) to share answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) concerning the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\) Rules](#) and the cybersecurity incident impacting Change Healthcare, a unit of UnitedHealth 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.