



## CMS Snapshot

**May 9-16, 2024**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, May 9 through 2pm Thursday, May 16, 2024.

### News Releases

\*May 9- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's In-Person Roundtable Meeting with Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Leaders](#). *HHS hosts a discussion during AANHPI Heritage Month to highlight the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to meeting the needs of the AA and NHPI communities.* On Monday, May 6th, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a roundtable discussion with leaders of national organizations serving Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities. Secretary Becerra was joined by Krystal Ka'ai, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI), who moderated the discussion.

\*May 9- [Biden-Harris Administration Reports Significant Progress Toward Protecting Children from Lead Poisoning](#). The President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children is publishing the [Progress Report on the Federal Lead Action Plan](#), a comprehensive update on the government's progress since 2018 toward reducing childhood lead exposures. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as co-leading members of the Task Force's Lead Exposures Subcommittee, are leading aggressive actions to combat lead exposure.

\*May 9- [HHS' Statement on Ascension Health's Cyber Incident](#). HHS is aware of a cyber incident involving Ascension Health and is in communication with Ascension Leadership to understand their efforts to minimize any disruptions to patient care.

\*May 10- [Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Rule Expanding Public Agencies Ability to Fund Legal Representation on Behalf of Families Involved in Child Welfare](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced a [new regulation](#) to expand access to legal representation for children who are eligible for title IV-E foster care, their parents, kinship caregivers, Indian

custodians and tribe by allowing state and tribal child welfare agencies to use federal funds to provide legal representation.

\*May 13- [HHS Announces LEAP in Health IT Special Emphasis Notice for AI and Behavioral Health Focused Projects in Fiscal Year 2024](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), today [published](#) a Special Emphasis Notice (SEN) under the Leading Edge Acceleration Projects (LEAP) in Health Information Technology (Health IT) funding opportunity for fiscal year 2024. Specifically, ONC is seeking applications through this funding opportunity for projects that address one of the following areas of interests.

\*May 13- [U.S. Departments of Health & Human Services and Justice Issue Letter of Findings to State of Rhode Island Over Improper Over-Hospitalizations of Children with Disabilities](#). An investigation by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (HHS OCR) and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Rhode Island and has found that the State of Rhode Island violated federal civil rights laws by routinely and unnecessarily segregating children with mental health and/or developmental disabilities at Bradley Hospital, an acute-care psychiatric hospital. HHS OCR Regional Manager Susan Rhodes and United States Attorney Zachary A. Cunha made the announcement today in Rhode Island, issuing a joint Letter of Findings, which was transmitted to the Governor of Rhode Island and the Director of Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

\*May 13- [SAMHSA Announces Winners of FentAlert Challenge During Launch of National Prevention Week](#). Today, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the winners of the [FentAlert Challenge](#), which sought innovative ideas from U.S. youth, aged 14-18, to develop a community strategy to educate their peers about fentanyl and fake pills — and prevent drug overdose deaths. The Challenge supports primary prevention efforts prioritized in the [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) Overdose Prevention Strategy](#), a key element of the Biden-Harris Administration's Unity Agenda's focus on beating the opioid crisis. The Challenge received almost 200 entries from across the country.

\*May 14- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Maternal Mental Health Task Force's National Strategy to Improve Maternal Mental Health Care Amid Urgent Public Health Crisis](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the release of a national strategy today, with recommendations developed by the [Task Force on Maternal Mental Health](#), a subcommittee of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Advisory Committee for Women's Services, to address the urgent public health crisis of maternal mental health and substance use issues. The [Report to Congress - PDF](#) and accompanying [National Strategy to Improve Maternal Mental Health Care - PDF](#) are part of broader federal efforts to address women's overall health, and maternal health in particular, across the nation, consistent with the [White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis - PDF](#) and the [White House Initiative on Women's Health Research](#).

\*May 15- [CMS Statement on Misclassification of Drugs, Program Administration and Program Integrity Updates Under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program \(MDRP\) Proposed Rule \(CMS-2434-P\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing an update on CMS' work related to the Misclassification of Drugs, Program Administration and Program Integrity Updates Under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program proposed rule ([CMS-2434-P](#)).

\*May 15- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on New Drug Overdose Death Data](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement on the release of new drug overdose death data.

\*May 16- [HHS Mental Health Accomplishments by the Numbers](#).

\*May 16- [ACF Announces New Resources Focused on Behavioral Health Integration in Early Childhood Programs](#). Today, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced new policy guidance and resources for states, Tribes, territories and local early childhood programs to promote the mental health and wellness of children, families and the early care and education workforce. These materials support President Biden's Unity Agenda priority to tackle the mental health crisis, and are in line with his strategy for transforming mental health in the United States.

\*May 16- [HHS Statement on DOJ Action Today](#).

## Fact Sheets

\*May 10- [Fact Sheet: USDA, HHS Announce New Actions to Reduce Impact and Spread of H5N1](#). Contact: [press@usda.gov](mailto:press@usda.gov) | [media@hhs.gov](mailto:media@hhs.gov) On March 25, 2024, immediately following the first detection of H5N1 in dairy cattle in the Texas panhandle region, USDA and HHS began their work to understand the origin of the emergence and its potential impact in bovines and humans. USDA experts also took swift action to trace animal movements, began sampling to assess the disease prevalence in herds, and initiated a variety of testing activities to confirm the safety of the meat and milk supplies alongside federal partners. On April 1, 2024, Texas reported the first and only confirmed human H5N1 infection associated with this outbreak, after confirmation by CDC. On April 24, 2024, USDA issued a Federal Order, that took effect on April 29, to limit the movement of lactating dairy cattle and to collect and aggregate H5N1 test results to better understand the nature of the outbreak.

## Blogs

\*May 15- [President Biden's Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law is Promoting Women's Economic Security](#). By: [Stacy Sanders](#), Chief Competition Officer, HHS. Summary: *President Biden's prescription law is lowering health care costs for women who are seniors and women under the age of 65 with disabilities with Medicare. Imagine facing the daily challenges of managing your*

chronic condition, and then discovering that the medication vital to your well-being is priced beyond reach. You grapple with the constant burden of paying for your medication, often sacrificing necessities for you and your loved ones. Just when you manage to stabilize your finances, the medication's cost skyrockets, ballooning by almost 50% since you began relying on it, now tallying up to a staggering \$10,000 annually, and you see no help in sight.

\*May 16- [Health coverage for young adults](#). Health insurance can protect you at any age.

\*May 16- [Honoring Lyme Disease Awareness Month with a Multi-Year Plan to Change the Lyme Disease Status Quo](#). By: [Daniel Desautels PhD](#), Health Scientist, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Deanna Lebel MHS](#), ORISE Fellow, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and [Kristen Honey PhD, PMP](#), Chief Data Scientist, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Summary: HHS addressing serious national threats of Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses. As part of Lyme Disease Awareness Month this May, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the [Lyme Innovation Initiative and LymeX Innovation Accelerator Multi-Year Plan - PDF](#) to Change the Lyme Disease Status Quo.