



CMS Snapshot

January 4-11, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, January 4 through 2pm Thursday, January 11, 2024.

News Releases

*January 8- [Secretary Becerra Names Chief Competition Officer to Help Identify Areas to Promote Competition in Health Care](#). *The New Role at HHS is Part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Efforts Announced Last Month to Lower Health Care and Prescription Drug Costs by Promoting Competition*. Washington, DC – Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra appointed Stacy Sanders to the role of Chief Competition Officer, a new role for the Department which was created last month as part of the [Biden-Harris Administration's](#) efforts to lower health care and prescription drugs costs by promoting competition. A Counselor to the Secretary, Ms. Sanders oversees the Department's implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, long-term care initiatives, policies to promote health care competition, and other Medicare work.

*January 9- [CMS Approves New York's Groundbreaking Section 1115 Demonstration Amendment to Improve Primary Care, Behavioral Health, and Health Equity](#). *New, innovative efforts will establish base rates for safety net providers, address critical social needs for millions of Medicaid recipients, and grow the health care workforce across the state*. Today, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to build a health care system that benefits all Americans, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved an amendment to New York's Medicaid section 1115 demonstration that bundles a series of actions to advance health equity and strengthen access to primary and behavioral health care across the state. CMS' approval allows New York to make large investments in wide-ranging Medicaid initiatives, including establishing sustainable base rates for safety net hospitals that serve the state's most underserved communities; connecting people to critical housing and nutritional support services; enhancing access to coordinated and comprehensive treatment for substance use disorders (SUDs); and making long-term, sustainable investments in the state's health care workforce.

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*January 9- [HHS Issues New Nondiscrimination Final Rule to Protect Conscience Rights](#). *The Final Rule strengthens the process for enforcing federal conscience laws and provides additional protections against conscience and religious discrimination.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced a Final Rule, entitled *Safeguarding the Rights of Conscience as Protected by Federal Statutes*. The Final Rule clarifies the process for enforcing federal conscience laws and strengthens protections against conscience and religious discrimination. This important Final Rule is HHS's latest action in furtherance of Executive Order 13985, entitled *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*.

*January 9- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Meeting with Pharmacies, Pharmacy Benefit Managers, and Insurers on COVID-19 Therapeutics Commercialization](#). *Secretary Becerra highlighted the importance of access to COVID-19 therapeutics and reiterated HHS' commitment to partnering with pharmacies and insurers to better serve the American people.* On Tuesday, January 9, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra met virtually with pharmacy leaders, pharmacy benefit managers, and insurers to discuss HHS' continued commitment and partnership to increase equitable access to COVID-19 therapeutics.

*January 10- [Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Over 20 Million Selected Affordable Health Coverage in ACA Marketplace Since Start of Open Enrollment Period, a Record High](#). *As January 16 coverage deadline approaches, Biden-Harris Administration continues to encourage Americans to sign up for quality, affordable health care coverage.* ACA Marketplace National Enrollment [Snapshot](#). Under the Biden-Harris Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced today that over 20 million people have selected an Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace plan since the 2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period launched on November 1 — a record number of enrollments.

*January 11- [HHS Launches New Medicaid/CHIP Resource Hub to Help Keep People Covered](#). As part of continuing efforts by the Biden-Harris Administration to help people access

comprehensive, high-quality health coverage, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched a [new, online and user-friendly hub](#) for partners to access critical Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) renewal and transition resources.

Fact Sheet

*January 10- [Marketplace 2024 Open Enrollment Period Report: National Snapshot](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that over 20 million Americans have signed up for 2024 individual market health insurance coverage through the Marketplaces since the start of the 2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) on November 1.

Blogs

*January 5- [Don’t miss out – get coverage for this year!](#) Time is running out – your window to apply for, renew, or change your Marketplace plan for 2024 coverage ends on January 15.

*January 9- [Donate Blood and Help Save Lives](#). By: [Rachel Levine M.D.](#), Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH). Summary: During National Blood Donor Month, we can all help save lives by giving blood and encouraging others to do so too. January is National Blood Donor Month, a time when we honor the generosity of America’s blood donors and remind people about the importance of donating blood regularly for those who are able to do so. The winter months also bring on reduced donations due to increased illness from COVID-19, flu, and RSV. Additionally, winter weather can make it difficult for blood donors to make and keep donation appointments.

*January 11- [Going once, going twice...Open Enrollment ends soon!](#) The clock is ticking for you to get health coverage for 2024. Open Enrollment for Marketplace health plans ends January 16. Coverage starts February 1.