



CMS Snapshot

June 20-27, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, June 20 through 2pm Thursday, June 27, 2024.

News Releases

*June 20- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on World Refugee Day](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement in honor of World Refugee Day.

*June 21- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Secures Commitment with Puerto Rican Child Welfare Agency to Implement Actions to Ensure Effective Communication for Individuals with Disabilities](#). *Commitment ensures effective communication for deaf and hard of hearing individuals when they receive or participate in critical social and human services and programs.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced actions taken by the Puerto Rico Department of the Family's Administration for Families and Children (the Department of the Family) to improve communication for, and with, deaf parents prior to removing their minor children from their homes under various Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The complaints alleged that the Department of the Family had failed to provide sign language interpreters to deaf parents during the agency's investigation and removal of their minor children.

*June 24- [HHS Finalizes Rule Establishing Disincentives for Health Care Providers That Have Committed Information Blocking](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today released a final rule that establishes disincentives for health care providers that have committed information blocking. This final rule exercises the Secretary's authority under the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act) to establish "disincentives" for health care providers who engage in practices that the health care providers knew were unreasonable and were likely to interfere with, prevent, or materially discourage the access, exchange, or use of electronic health information (EHI), except as required by law or covered by a regulatory exception.

*June 24- [Statement by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the Second Anniversary of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#). Today marks the second anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a ruling that

profoundly impacted reproductive health care in our nation and took away a constitutional right from the American people.

*June 25- [U.S. Surgeon General Issues Advisory on the Public Health Crisis of Firearm Violence in the United States](#). *Washington, D.C.* – Today, United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy released a landmark [Surgeon General’s Advisory on Firearm Violence](#), declaring firearm violence in America a public health crisis. Firearm violence is pervasive, with [more than half \(54 percent\)](#) .

*June 25- [HHS Publishes First Round of Inflation Reduction Act Case Studies on Health Sector Climate Investments](#). *The HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity highlights safety net health care providers using Inflation Reduction Act funds and tax credits to decarbonize their communities and protect patients.* The HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) [published two case studies](#) today highlighting how Boston Medical Center and OhioHealth, a pair of nonprofit safety net health care providers, are using the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to reduce carbon emissions. The case studies are meant to offer health organizations in similar situations a roadmap to use the IRA to serve their core mission, reduce climate-related health impacts and advance health equity.

*June 25- [Statement by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the Anniversary of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#). Over the last several years, our nation's young people have faced unprecedented challenges, including the scourge of gun violence, social isolation, and other repercussions from a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. These challenges have had devastating effects on their mental health and well-being.

*June 26- [HHS Announces Cost Savings for 64 Prescription Drugs Thanks to the Medicare Rebate Program Established by the Biden-Harris Administration’s Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law](#). *Under President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, some people with Medicare will pay less for some Part B drugs if the drug’s price increased 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 that some Medicare enrollees will pay less for 64 drugs available through Medicare Part B. The drugs will have a lowered Part B coinsurance rate from July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024, since each drug company raised prices faster than the rate of inflation. Over 750,000 people with Medicare use these drugs annually, which treat conditions such as osteoporosis, cancer, and infections.

*June 27- [Statement by CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on EMTALA Protections](#).

*June 27- [CMS Statement on EMTALA Protections](#).

*June 27- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Statement on Supreme Court Decision in *Moyle v. United States*](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Moyle v. United States*.

*June 27- [Moving can impact your coverage options and savings](#). A new address may mean new health coverage and savings options. Report your address change to get the right plan and savings for your household.

Blogs

*June 20- [Celebrating Pride Month with Action](#). By: [Melanie Fontes Rainer](#), Director for Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Summary: *This Pride Month, I am reflecting on the stories I have heard from LGBTQI+ communities across the country. This Pride Month, I am reflecting on the stories I have heard from LGBTQI+ communities across the country. I've heard from parents who had to relocate—leaving their homes, friends, and lives—for their children's safety and health. I think about the parents who cannot afford to leave their communities and are subjected to harassment daily for simply loving their kids. I feel for our trans and nonbinary siblings who bear the stress and carry the burden perpetuated by hateful rhetoric and laws. I am buoyed by the advocates and communities nationwide who show up and stand up to fight for equality. I feel joy for the members of the LGBTQI+ community who are deeply proud of their identity and live their full lives with pride.*

*June 26- [Advancing LGBTQI+ Healthcare Equity: The Biden-Harris Administration's Commitment](#). By: [Adrian Shanker \(He/Him\)](#), Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy and Senior Advisor on LGBTQI+ Health Equity Summary: *The Biden-Harris Administration is working to increase healthcare access, and reduce discrimination and financial barriers facing LGBTQI+ people on Medicare. Pride Month is a time that holds deep significance for the LGBTQI+ community, celebrating resilience, visibility, and strides towards equality. It's also a moment to reflect on the challenges that are present, including disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. Discrimination, financial barriers, and heightened health risks like HIV, STIs, and mental health issues persist, underscoring the ongoing struggle for equitable healthcare.*

*June 26- [HHS Leaders, Leading with Purpose: Stories that Inspire Change](#). By: [Senior Representatives](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Labor Summary: *HHS Leaders share personal DEIA Change Stories, showcasing their commitment to furthering DEIA principles across the Department.*

*June 26- [Change Story: Karen T. Comfort](#). By: [Karen T. Comfort](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion & Chief Diversity Officer Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity & Inclusion Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Summary: *Karen T. Comfort shares her journey from childhood visits to her mother's HHS office to leading DEIA programs, reflecting a lifelong dedication to public service.*

*June 27- [Moving can impact your coverage options and savings](#). A new address may mean new health coverage and savings options. Report your address change to get the right plan and savings for your household.