

## **Stakeholder Update on the Affordable Care Act**

**March 4, 2013**

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### **Medicaid Moving Forward Report Available**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released “Medicaid Moving Forward”, a report that identifies recent developments, opportunities available to states today, and upcoming activity that will help states improve and modernize their Medicaid programs. Sections on long term services and supports, new and improved business processes, and Medicaid program integrity will provide valuable tools and insights to states as they continue to build a Medicaid program that gives beneficiaries access to quality, affordable care. To view the report, please visit <http://www.medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/Events-and-Announcements/Events-and-Announcements.html>

### **New Report Shows Slower Medicaid Spending Growth**

The 2012 Medicaid Actuarial Report released on March 1, 2013 contains good news. It shows that estimated Medicaid benefits spending will decrease by 1.9% per beneficiary from 2011 to 2012. This decline in per beneficiary spending is virtually unprecedented. Except in 2005-2006, when the cost of prescription drugs for Medicaid-Medicare dual beneficiaries shifted to Medicare Part D, Medicaid spending per beneficiary has never declined from one year to the next in the 47-year history of the program. Health care spending growth has generally been slow over the past few years, but Medicaid spending growth in 2012 is well below spending growth in the rest of the health care economy. To read the full blog, please visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/blog/2013/03/medicaid-report.html>, to read the full report, visit: <http://medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Financing-and-Reimbursement/Actuarial-Report-on-Financial-Outlook-for-Medicaid.html> and to read a letter from Secretary Sebelius, please visit: <http://medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/Events-and-Announcements/Downloads/Markell-and-Fallin-Letter.pdf>

## **Essential Health Benefits Rule**

CMS has recently released a final rule on Essential Health Benefits. The rule outlines health insurance issuer standards for a core package of benefits, called essential health benefits, that health insurance issuers must cover both inside and outside the Health Insurance Marketplace. Through its standards for essential health benefits, the final rule also expands coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment, for millions of Americans.

Under the law, health insurance issuers must cover both inside and outside of the Health Insurance Marketplace a core package of items and services, known as “essential health benefits.” The Essential Health Benefits must include items and services within at least the following 10 categories:

1. Ambulatory patient services
2. Emergency services
3. Hospitalization
4. Maternity and newborn care
5. Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment
6. Prescription drugs
7. Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices
8. Laboratory services
9. Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management
10. Pediatric services, including oral and vision care

For more information about this final rule, please visit <http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/factsheets/ehb-2-20-2013.html> or view the rule at <http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx>.

## **Affordable Care Act Implementation and Coverage in States Available**

HHS has reports on how the Affordable Care Act is making a difference in each State. Updated last fall, the resources can be found here: <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/resources/index.html>

## **CMS Stakeholder & Partner Education Series Webinar**

The CMS Stakeholder & Partner Education Series monthly webinar will be held on **Tuesday, March 5, 2013 from 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET**. This month will feature presentations on Medicare Summary Notice updates and the Strong Start Program, as well as an update on the Federal Poverty Level.

To join the webinar, please join both the audio and webinar portion of the meeting. This webinar is hosted by the CMS Partner Relations Group, Office of Public Engagement

**Audio:** Please dial: 1- 877-251-0301, conference ID: 88601026

**Webinar:** <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/edseriesmar2013/>

## **Health Care Law Webinars Hosted by the HHS Partnership Center**

**To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred topic from the list below and submit the necessary information.** Please click on the title of the webinar and fill out the registration form. After registering you will receive an e-mail confirmation containing information about joining the webinar. Please contact us at [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov) if you have problems registering or if you have any questions about the health care law.

### **[The Health Care Law 101](#)**

#### **March 7 at 1:00 p.m. ET**

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the health care law, and how to access care in your community.

### **[The Health Care Law 101 \(in Spanish\)](#)**

#### **March 19 at 3:00 p.m. ET**

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the health care law, and how to access care in your community in Spanish.

## **Updated - HHS Affordable Care Act Rules and Regulations, News, Blogs, Videos and Educational Materials**

Visit [HealthCare.Gov](http://HealthCare.Gov) and [CuidadodeSalud.Gov](http://CuidadodeSalud.Gov), two consumer-focused health care websites to: [find insurance options](#), [learn about prevention](#), [compare care quality](#), **and** [learn about the law](#). How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story [here](#).

## **Affordable Care Act News**

### **➤ February 28, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a facts sheet about reforming our health care delivery system. “Fixing America’s health care system means more than just guaranteeing that everyone has coverage. To address the rising costs of health care, we must improve the way that health care is delivered, including coordinating care better and improving the safety of care.” View the facts sheet [here](#).

## **Rules and Regulations**

### **➤ March 1, 2013**

The Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014. View the final rule [here](#), the interim final rule with comment [here](#), and view the fact sheet [here](#).

### **➤ March 1, 2013**

SHOP Notice of Proposed Rule Making. View the proposed rule [here](#).

### **➤ March 1, 2013**

The Office of Personnel Management has published a final rule on how it will administer two “multistate” health plans on insurance exchanges around the country. View final rule [here](#).

### **➤ March 1, 2013**

Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service issued a Health Insurer Providers Fees notice of proposed rulemaking. View the rule [here](#).

## **Brochures & Educational Materials**

*Below you’ll find brochures and materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. For other brochures and resources visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/brochures/index.html>.*

### **➤ [ACA Educational PowerPoints](#)**

## **The Top Five Things You Need to Know**

- Families with Children (PDF – [English 7.27 MB](#), [Spanish 1.23 MB](#))**
- Health Care Providers (PDF – [English 2.71 MB](#), [Spanish 517 KB](#))**
- People with Disabilities (PDF – [English 2.56 MB](#), [Spanish 930 KB](#))**

- Seniors (PDF – [English 11.3 MB](#), [Spanish 1.54 MB](#))
- Small Business Owners (PDF – [English 4.22 MB](#), [Spanish 646 KB](#))
- Young Adults (PDF – [English 6.56 MB](#), [Spanish 919 KB](#))

#### **Information for Consumers and Small Businesses**

- [The Health Care Law & You](#) (PDF – 8.99 MB)
- [Information for Small Businesses](#) (PDF – 763 KB)

#### **MyCare: Videos and Stories**

*Find videos and stories related to how the Affordable Care Act has helped individuals across the country.*  
<http://www.healthcare.gov/mycare/stories.html>