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To:

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

October 16, 2014

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### **CMS Kicks Off Effort to Help Marketplace Enrollees Stay Covered and Re-Enroll**

*Consumers should come back to HealthCare.gov, reach out to the call center, or visit with an in-person assister to make sure they choose the plan that best meets their needs starting November 15.*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to making it as easy as possible for current Health Insurance Marketplace enrollees to renew their coverage for 2015. It is encouraging consumers to come back at the start of Open Enrollment on November 15, update their 2015 application, and compare their options to make sure they enroll in the plan that best meets their budget and health needs for next year. This week, consumers will begin to receive notices from the Federally-facilitated Marketplace in the mail and in their HealthCare.gov accounts, explaining how they can renew their coverage during Open Enrollment.

When consumers return to HealthCare.gov starting on November 15 and initiate their 2015 application, 90 percent of their online application will already be filled out or pre-populated. In-person assistance will be available to help review an applicant's options and find a plan that best suits their needs. CMS is also staffing up an additional 1,000 call center representatives this year over last year that will be available to answer questions and walk consumers through the coverage process.

If consumers do not return to the Marketplace to update their application, they generally will be auto-enrolled in the same plan - with the same amount of advance payment of the premium tax credit and same cost-sharing reductions – as the 2014 plan year. They can change plans during open enrollment through February 15, with coverage in their new plan starting on the first day of the next or second month depending on when they enroll.

To help consumers better understand the renewal process, CMS is releasing today the 5 Steps to Staying Covered – to make it as simple as possible for them to choose the plan that best fits their needs and budget. The consumer tested 5-step process includes:

- 1) Review: Plans change; people change – review your coverage and look for a letter from your plan about how your benefits and costs may change next year,
- 2) Update: Starting November 15, log in and update your 2015 application - make sure your household income and other information is up-to-date for next year,
- 3) Compare: Compare your current plan with other plans that are available in your area,
- 4) Choose: Select the health plan that best fits your budget and health needs, and
- 5) Enroll: The marketplace opens on November 15, make sure to review, update, compare and choose by December 15 to have any changes take effect on January 1. Contact your plan after you've enrolled and make sure you pay your first month's premium.

To view the Federal Marketplace notices, visit: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/training-materials/training.html>.

To learn more about the 5 Steps to Staying Covered, visit: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/5-steps-to-staying-covered.pdf>

For more information about Health Insurance Marketplaces, visit: [www.healthcare.gov/marketplace](http://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace)

## **West Africa Ebola Outbreak: Faith and Community Based Partners Call**

Saturday, October 18, 2014, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon EDT

**USA Toll Free:** 1-800-857-5755

**International:** +1-312-470-7181

**Verbal Passcode:** Community

Please share this invitation widely with your colleagues and partners.

CDC will provide information about the Ebola outbreak, and updates on what CDC is doing to help stop it. Reverend Miriam J. Burnett of the Resource and Promotion of Health Alliance, Inc. will discuss the potential role of places of worship, community, and family in addressing Ebola concerns of those living in the US.

In an effort to answer as many of your questions as possible, **please email your questions ahead of time to [emergencypartners@cdc.gov](mailto:emergencypartners@cdc.gov)**. Please use the subject line “**10/18 Ebola Call**.”

You may also contact CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) any time with questions about Ebola or other health questions.

### **How to Join and Participate in the Call:**

1. Dial (800) 857-5755 if you are calling from the United States, or +1 (312) 470-7181 for



1. international participants. You will be greeted by a Live Operator
2. Please say the verbal passcode “Community” to the Operator upon request.
3. The operator will request limited information from you for a Participant List so that we can keep track of our meeting participants.
4. You will then be placed in a “Listen Mode” until the meeting starts.
5. Near the end of the scheduled meeting time, a question and answer period will be available; dial (\*1) to be identified with a question/comment.
6. We encourage you to email your questions to [emergencypartners@cdc.gov](mailto:emergencypartners@cdc.gov) ahead of the call.
7. If you need further Operator assistance is needed during the call, dial (\*0)

## **New Resources for the Marketplace, Data on the Uninsured, CAC Fact Sheets and State ACA Fact Sheets**

There are less than 30 days to open enrollment and many resources are now updated.

[HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov), the website to learn about and enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace, was recently updated to include information about renewing coverage, getting ready to enroll in the Marketplace, and answers to your questions about the health care law.

[Marketplace.cms.gov](http://Marketplace.cms.gov) was also updated to include information in a more easy-to-find format. Outreach materials and applications are also available in a variety of languages.

Marketplace enrollment information by zip code has been released by ASPE, part of HHS. The data file includes enrollment numbers by ZIP Code for the 36 states that are participating in the Marketplace. The data is from for the initial Marketplace open enrollment period, October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, including additional special enrollment period activity reported through April 19, 2014. The data filed can be found here: [http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2014/MarketPlaceEnrollment/EnrollmentByZip/rpt\\_EnrollmentByZip.cfm](http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2014/MarketPlaceEnrollment/EnrollmentByZip/rpt_EnrollmentByZip.cfm)

How to Become a Certified Application Counselor Fact Sheet is now updated here: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/tips-for-cacs-in-ffm.pdf>.

The [ACA state by state](#) fact sheets have been updated with the most current stats available.

## **New Health Insurance Literacy Tools Released in English and Spanish**

[From Coverage to Care](#) is an initiative to help people with new health care coverage understand their benefits and connect to primary care and the preventive services that are right for them, so they can live a long and healthy life. CMS has developed written [resources](#), [videos](#), and provided ways to [connect](#) with them. We encourage you to share these resources with consumers, and help them on their journey from coverage to care. We also hope you share information about local resources during your conversations, to help individuals know where and how to access care in your community. Materials are now available in Spanish as well as English.

### **Affordable Care Act 101 Webinars for Small Employers**

SBA, the Department of Health Human and Services, and Small Business Majority have teamed up for a free weekly webinar series where small employers can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and what it means for their organization and employees. Topics covered include cost

containment, the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit, the new Health Insurance Marketplace, and Employer Shared Responsibility. Webinar content will generally be the same each week. Below are the registration links for upcoming webinars in English. More information about the health care law for small employers can be found here: <http://www.sba.gov/healthcare>.

- Thursday, October 16 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register \(link is external\)](#)
- Thursday, October 23 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register \(link is external\)](#)
- Thursday, October 30 at 2:00 PM ET: [Click to Register \(link is external\)](#)

#### **Spanish-language ACA 101 Webinars**

- October 21, 2014 at 4 pm ET: [Click to Register \(link is external\)](#)
- November 4, 2014 at 4 pm ET: [Click to Register \(link is external\)](#)
- November 18, 2014 at 4 pm ET: [Click to Register \(link is external\)](#)
- December 2, 2014 at 4 pm ET: [Click to Register \(link is external\)](#)
- December 16, 2014 at 4 pm ET: [Click to Register \(link is external\)](#)

#### **HHS Partnership Center Webinars on the Health Care Law**

The HHS Partnership Center has updated webinars on the health care law for faith and community organizations. All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session.

**To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred topic from the list below and submit the necessary information.** 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. You may also join the webinar by telephone only. All webinars are one hour.

### **How to Become a Certified Application Counselor (CAC) Organization and Champion for Coverage**

**October 23 at 1 pm ET**  
(Noon CT, 11 am MT, 10 am PT)

**To Join By Phone Only**, Dial +1 (415) 655-0051, Access Code: 581-376-365  
For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

Certified Application Counselors (CACs) are volunteers who enroll people in the Health Insurance Marketplace. CAC organizations train CACs and plan enrollment events. Champions for Coverage educate people in their community about the health care law and receive invitations to conference calls and webinars. Please join us on October 23 at 1 pm ET to learn more about CACs, CAC organizations and Champions for Coverage. Please email [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov) by October 23 at 10 am ET with any questions.

For more information on the Certified Application Counselor (CAC) program and basic eligibility criteria go to: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/tips-for-cacs-in-ffm.pdf>.

### **Getting Ready to Enroll: Health Insurance Marketplace 101**

**October 29 at 3 pm ET**  
(2 pm CT, 1 pm MT, Noon PT)

**To Join By Phone Only**: Dial +1 (702) 489-0004, Access Code: 818-992-963



For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key

Open enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace starts on November 15, 2014 with coverage available as early as January 1, 2015. This presentation will discuss how to enroll in the Marketplace, key websites and resources on the law. We will also discuss how to host an enrollment event. Questions will be answered at the end of the webinar. Please send any questions to [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov) prior to October 29 at noon ET.

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

### **HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News Bulletin: Friday, October 10, 2014**

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

## **ACA News**

### **\* October 9, 2014**

Secretary Burwell announced that because of the Affordable Care Act, \$283 million has been invested in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) in fiscal year 2014 to increase access to primary care services in communities that need it most. Today, more than 9,200 Corps clinicians are providing care to approximately 9.7 million patients across the country. The NHSC provides financial, professional and educational resources to medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health care providers who bring their skills to areas of the United States with limited access to health care.

In addition to Corps clinicians currently providing care, approximately 1,100 students, residents, and health providers in the National Health Service Corps pipeline are in training and preparing to enter practice. Doctors in the first class of the National Health Service Corps Student to Service (S2S) Loan Repayment Program are completing their residency training in 2015; their entry into service will double the number of new physicians entering the workforce from the Corps pipeline.

The press release is available [here](#).

### **\* October 9, 2014**

Secretary Burwell announced today that next year's standard Medicare Part B monthly premium and deductible will remain the same as the last two years, due to the slower health care cost growth within Medicare since the passage of the Affordable Care Act. Medicare Part B covers physicians' services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment, and other items. For the approximately 49 million Americans enrolled in Medicare Part B, premiums and deductibles will remain unchanged in 2015 at \$104.90 and \$147, respectively. This leaves more of seniors' cost of living adjustment from Social Security in their pockets.

According to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, as compared to Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections for 2015 made in 2009, premiums will be more than \$125 lower over the course of a year.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services also announced today that for the small number of beneficiaries who pay Medicare Part A monthly premiums, their monthly bill will drop \$19 in 2015 to \$407. Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, and some home health care services.

The press release is available [here](#).

#### **\* September 30, 2014**

As part of the ongoing effort to increase transparency and accountability in health care, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released today the first round of Open Payments data to help consumers understand the financial relationships between the health care industry, and physicians and teaching hospitals.

This release is part of the Open Payments program, created by the Affordable Care Act, and lists consulting fees, research grants, travel reimbursements, and other gifts the health care industry – such as medical device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies – provided to physicians and teaching hospitals during the last five months of 2013. The data contains 4.4 million payments valued at nearly \$3.5 billion attributable to 546,000 individual physicians and almost 1,360 teaching hospitals. Future reports will be published annually and will include a full 12 months of payment data, beginning in June 2015.

Over time, CMS expects to make enhancements such as introducing new tools to allow for easier data searches. This improved search functionality will allow users to more easily review payments received by their personal physician, or search on criteria such as specialty, location, or types of payments received.

The press release is available [here](#).

#### **\* September 30, 2014**

For those consumers that received a notice from the marketplace letting them know that there is an income inconsistency with their marketplace application, were required to respond by the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. For consumers unable to respond by the Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, their healthcare coverage is not expected to be cancelled, however, their monthly premiums may go



up or their tax credits may be taken away. Additional information about how to resolve an inconsistency is available through this [blog](#).

## Health Care Blog Posts

### ✱ October 10, 2014

As we approach the beginning of Medicare open enrollment on October 15, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) wants everyone to know that for most seniors who have Original Medicare, the 2015 Part B premiums will remain unchanged for a second consecutive year. This means more of seniors' retirement income—and any increase in Social Security benefits—stays in their pockets. In addition, quality continues to improve both in Medicare Advantage and the Part D Prescription Drug Program, as more people with Medicare get access to higher quality plans. About 60 percent of people who have a Medicare Advantage Plan are currently enrolled in plans with four or more stars for 2015, compared to an estimated 17 percent back in 2009 (Medicare Advantage enrollment is projected to reach an all-time high in 2015, with more than 16 million beneficiaries). Likewise, about 53 percent of Part D enrollees are currently enrolled in stand-alone prescription drug plans with four or more stars for 2015, compared to just 16 percent in 2009. Improved quality in Medicare health and prescription drug plans is just one of the many positive changes we've seen since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law. Find out more [here](#).

### ✱ October 10, 2014

When you buy health coverage for your employees through the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace, you may qualify for a tax credit worth up to 50% of your premium contributions. Two new tools are now available in Spanish on [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](#) to make it easier for small employers to understand and take full advantage of the benefits available from the SHOP. The new [Full-Time Equivalent \(FTE\) Calculator](#) helps small employers determine if they're eligible to buy SHOP coverage for their employees, while the new [SHOP Tax Credit Estimator](#) lets small employers learn the size of the tax credit they could get for contributing to coverage for their employees through the SHOP. You can find out more about the tax credit and applying for SHOP in this [blog](#).

### ✱ October 3, 2014

Starting November 15th, you'll be able to apply and enroll in 2015 Marketplace coverage. When you fill out a Marketplace application, you can compare plans based on price, benefits, and other important features. You'll also find out if you qualify for free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). If you're eligible, the Health Insurance Marketplace can help you find affordable health coverage. Most people who apply [qualify for premium tax credits](#) and other savings based on their income. If you already have 2014 Marketplace coverage, you'll be receiving important information about [how to keep your coverage for 2015](#).

Here are some things you can do now to get ready for November 15th:

Learn about [important dates and deadlines](#) for Marketplace coverage

Download this [Marketplace checklist](#) to gather the documents you'll need to apply

[Find someone in your community](#) to help you apply and answer your questions

The blog can be found [here](#).

## White House Health Care Blog Posts

### ✱ October 9, 2014

In March 2012, the Obama Administration announced the commitment of \$200 million by six Federal agencies as part of the Big Data Research and Development Initiative. Earlier this year, the Administration released a report entitled Big Data: Seizing Opportunities, Preserving Values. This report outlines steps the Administration is taking to promote the benefits of Big Data while preserving values such as privacy, fairness, and self-determination. To catalyze new biomedical Big Data research, the Obama Administration and the National Institutes of Health launched the Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) initiative in April 2013. Today, the NIH has awarded a total of \$32 million in new grants. You can find more about the grants [here](#).

### ✱ October 9, 2014

The Council on Economic Advisers released a new report that looks at the so-called "Millennial" generation. And while you might think that this group of Americans -- mostly in their mid-20s -- is all about smartphones and mason jars, you'd be wrong. The report comes ahead of President Obama's visit with Los Angeles entrepreneurs, technologists, and creatives -- and it takes a close look at the trends and circumstances that have shaped Millennials. It finds a generation shaped by transformation, that came into its own in the midst of the financial crisis, but is also more diverse and educated than any other generation. You can find the facts from the report [here](#).

### ✱ October 8, 2014

Ffd Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that the following five U.S. airports will soon begin enhanced Ebola screening for all travelers coming from Ebola-affected countries:

- John F. Kennedy International Airport - New York, NY
- Washington Dulles International Airport - Washington, D.C.
- Newark Liberty International Airport - Newark, NJ



- Chicago O'Hare International Airport - Chicago, IL
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport - Atlanta, GA

You can find the specifics [here](#).

#### ✳ **October 7, 2014**

Since the first appearance of Ebola in West Africa earlier this year, CDC has been working to prepare the American health care system for the diagnosis and safe care of a patient with Ebola here on our shores. In the past three months, CDC has been in close communication with hundreds of thousands of clinicians through notices distributed through CDC's Health Alert Network, our primary means of reaching the nation's health care community — and one they are already very familiar with. The Ebola-related notices have included recommendations for evaluating patients, guidance for the nation's Emergency Medical Services systems and 911 offices, and guidelines for infection control should a hospital or health care facility find themselves caring for a patient with known or suspected Ebola. You can find the blog post [here](#).

### **HHS News**

#### ✳ **October 1, 2014**

HHS will pursue detection tests for influenza to improve diagnosis and speed pandemic response. Potential tests to help doctors diagnose influenza sooner and more accurately will advance in development under contracts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The tests could help boost influenza pandemic preparedness by increasing diagnostic capabilities in near-patient care settings such as doctors' offices, clinics, and hospitals.

One award will advance the development of a simple, low-cost molecular test under a 3.5-year, \$12.9 million contract with Alere Inc., headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. The other award, to InDevR Inc., of Boulder, Colorado, will allow a biochip test to move forward under a two-year, \$7.9 million contract with options to extend the contract up to \$14.7 million over four years.

To learn more about ASPR and preparedness, response and recovery from the health impacts of disasters, visit the HHS public health and medical emergency website, [phe.gov](#). Information about influenza is available at [flu.gov](#). The press release is available [here](#).

#### ✳ **September 29, 2014**

A potential drug to combat a complication of severe infections known as a cytokine storm will

advance in development under an agreement announced today by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A cytokine storm can complicate recovery and in extreme cases can drive the body's organs to shut down, causing death.

Cytokines, chemicals produced by the body, modulate the inflammatory and immune responses to infection. In severe infections, such as skin and soft tissue infections caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, called the "flesh-eating bacteria," cells can over-react and create an overwhelming surge of cytokines – the cytokine storm. This can result in tissue and organ damage and cause a severe systemic inflammatory response associated with a high likelihood that the patient could die.

Advanced development of the potential drug, AB103, to combat cytokine storm will be supported under a one and one-half year, \$4.4 million contract with the Israeli biotechnology company Atox Bio. If options are fully exercised, the contract could be extended up to an additional three years and could total \$23.9 million. The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority ([BARDA](#)), within the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response ([ASPR](#)), will oversee the project. .

The press release is available [here](#).

## **Educational Materials**

*Below you'll find materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.*

### **CAC Fact Sheet**

The CAC Fact Sheet is live here: [Information and Tips for Certified Application Counselor Organizations in a Federally-facilitated Marketplace \(FFM\)](#). This Certified Application Counselor (CAC) fact sheet is a companion document to the presentation titled, "How to Become a CAC Organization in a Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM)". More general information about assister programs can be found [here](#).

### **Info-Graphics**

View all our ***Flickr Info-Graphs*** page [here](#).

### **Health Insurance Marketplace**

*For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace including official resources, research, news, and events visit <http://marketplace.cms.gov/>*

### **Twitter/Facebook**

#### **✴ Facebook**

Like [Get Covered America](#) and share your story with [#getcovered](#).

#### **✴ Twitter**

- More than 8 Million Americans have signed up for health coverage thanks to the Affordable



- Care Act. RT #Covered and share your #GetCovered story.
- Tweet #OurSalud to share the impact of the ACA on the Hispanic/ Latino community.
- [Welcomed our community leaders](#) as we celebrate #HHM & focus on continuing to improve the quality of health care

### **Marketplace Updates**

*For information on how to sign up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, including text message and email updates visit <http://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/index.html>*

### **State by State Fact Sheets**

*Choose your state to learn more about the immediate benefits of the Affordable Care Act,*

The ACA state by state fact sheets have been updated with the most current stats available.

They can be found here: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/bystate/statebystate.html>

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**To sign up for the HHS Partnership Center Stakeholder Update on the Affordable Care Act,  
please email [ACA101@hhs.gov](mailto:ACA101@hhs.gov)**

**HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships**

**200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20201**

**[www.hhs.gov/partnerships](http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships), 202-358- 3595**



Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

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