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HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

News Bulletin: Friday, February 1st, 2013

Visit HealthCare.Gov and 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 1, 2013

The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Director, Cindy Mann sent a letter to State Medicaid Directors providing guidance to states on section 4106 of the Affordable Care Act. Section 4106(b) establishes a one percentage point increase in the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) effective January 1, 2013, applied to expenditures for adult vaccines and clinical preventive services to states that cover, without cost-sharing, a full list of specified preventive services and adult vaccines. In that circumstance, the increase would apply to such expenditures whether the services are provided on a fee-for-service (FFS) or managed care basis, or under a benchmark or benchmark-equivalent benefit package (referred to as an alternative benefit plan). View the letter [here](#).

* February 1, 2013

The Obama Administration issued proposed rules for public comment regarding contraceptive coverage with no cost-sharing under the Affordable Care Act. The proposed rules provide women with coverage for preventive care that includes contraceptive services with no co-pays, while also respecting the concerns of some religious organizations. Today's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking reflects public feedback received through the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued in March 2012. These proposed rules are open for public comment through April 8, 2013. View the full release [here](#), the proposed rules [here](#), and the fact sheet [here](#).

* January 31, 2013

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that over 500 organizations will begin participating in the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative. Through this new initiative, made possible by the Affordable Care Act, CMS will test how bundling payments for episodes of care can result in more coordinated care for beneficiaries and lower costs for Medicare. View the full release [here](#).

* January 30, 2013

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as well as the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS), issued two sets of proposed regulations. The regulations explain the shared responsibility provision and lay out the eligibility rules for receiving an exemption and the process by which individuals can receive certificates of exemption. View the fact sheet [here](#), CMS rule [here](#) and the IRS rule [here](#).

* January 30, 2013

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced new, lower Medicare prices that will go into effect this July in a major expansion of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and

Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program. The CMS Office of the Actuary estimates that the program will save the Medicare Part B Trust Fund \$25.7 billion and beneficiaries \$17.1 billion between 2013 and 2022. Medicare beneficiaries in 91 major metropolitan areas will save an average of 45 percent for certain DMEPOS items scheduled to begin on July 1, 2013. View the full release [here](#) and the facts sheet [here](#).

✳ **January 28, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is seeking public comment on the new single, streamlined application for health insurance and the SHOP applications in preparation for the launch of a new Health Insurance Marketplace next fall. Model applications and documentation for individuals and small businesses (SHOP) are now available for public comment via the paperwork reduction act (PRA). View PRA packages [here](#) and the video demonstrations [here](#).

White House Health Care Blog Posts

✳ **January 28, 2013**

The Affordable Care Act will help small businesses by lowering premium cost growth and increasing access to quality, affordable health insurance. Depending on whether you're a small employer or a larger employer, different provisions of the Affordable Care Act may apply to you. View the full post [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>

The Affordable Care Act at Two Years

✳ [The Affordable Care Act and Women](#)

✳ [The Affordable Care Act Gives American Families Greater Control Over Their Own Health Care](#)

- ✳ [The Affordable care Act Gives Parents Greater Control Over Their Children's Health Care](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps Young Adults](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps Seniors](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps African Americans](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps Latinos](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps Rural America](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps Women](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps Small Businesses](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps American Indians and Alaska Natives](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps Americans with Disabilities](#)
- ✳ [The Affordable Care Act Helps LGBT Americans](#)
- ✳ [Health Reform for American Veterans and Military Personnel](#)

State by State Fact Sheets

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

- ✳ [State By State Fact Sheets](#)
- ✳ [Learn the facts and statistics about how the Affordable Care Act will benefit each state.](#)

Regulations and Guidance

Regulations and guidance are used to implement many of the Affordable Care Act provisions that address both private and public health insurance.

- ✳ [Standards Related to Reinsurance, Risk Corridors and Risk Adjustment](#)
- ✳ [Eligibility Changes under Affordable Care Act](#)
- ✳ [Certain Preventive Services under Affordable Care Act](#)
- ✳ [Student Health Insurance Coverage](#)

Grants

The Affordable Care Act creates a number of new grant opportunities. Below, you will find links to the grant centers for the agencies administering these grants. There, and at [Grants.gov](#), you can search for relevant grant opportunities.

- ✳ [CDC National Public Health Improvement Initiative \(NPHII\) Grants](#)
- ✳ [Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight Grants](#)
- ✳ [Administration for Children and Families Grants](#)

- ✳ [Administration on Aging Grants](#)
- ✳ [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#)
- ✳ [Health Resources and Services Administration Grants](#)
- ✳ [Indian Health Service Grants](#)
- ✳ [National Institutes of Health Grants](#)
- ✳ [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grants](#)

Special Programs

Several new programs across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services support the work of the Affordable Care Act. You will find information about these programs on this page.

- ✳ [Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs](#)

Councils & Groups

The Affordable Care Act establishes a number of councils and groups to carry out provisions in the law. To learn more about the organizations, click on a link below:

- ✳ [Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight \(CCIIO\)](#)
- ✳ [Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation](#)
- ✳ [Interagency Working Group on Health Care Quality](#)
- ✳ [National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council](#)