Update from CMS

NAIC Health Innovations Committee
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Agenda

• Overview of CMS Health Equity Framework
• CCIIO Commitments
• Looking Ahead

Note: This communication was printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense.

Unless indicated otherwise, the general references to “Marketplace” in the presentation only includes Federally-facilitated Marketplaces and State-based Marketplaces on the Federal Platform.
Vision

CMS serves the public as a trusted partner and steward, dedicated to advancing health equity, expanding coverage, and improving health outcomes.

- **Advance health equity** by addressing the health disparities that underlie our health system.
- **Build on the Affordable Care Act** and expand access to quality, affordable health coverage and care.
- **Engage our partners and the communities we serve throughout the policymaking and implementation process**.
- **Drive innovation** to tackle our health system challenges and promote high-value, person-centered care.
- **Protect our programs’ sustainability for future generations by serving as a responsible steward of public funds**.
- **Foster a positive and inclusive workplace and workforce, and promote excellence in all aspects of CMS’s operations**.
Priority 1: Expand the Collection, Reporting, and Analysis of Standardized Data

Priority 2: Assess Causes of Disparities Within CMS Programs, and Address Inequities in Policies and Operations to Close Gaps

Priority 3: Build Capacity of Health Care Organizations and the Workforce to Reduce Health and Health Care Disparities

Priority 4: Advance Language Access, Health Literacy, and the Provision of Culturally Tailored Services

Priority 5: Increase All Forms of Accessibility to Health Care Services and Coverage

CMS Framework for Health Equity Priorities
CCIIO Health Equity Goal

• Increase coverage among the underserved who are Marketplace-eligible or enrolled.

• Make Marketplace coverage more accessible and available to underserved populations.

• Ensure and strengthen consumer protections for coverage.

• Improve data collection and analysis to reduce health disparities.
CCIIO’s Health Equity Actions

• Coverage
  • Extended Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) Open Enrollment for Plan Year 2022 health plans until January 15, 2022.
  • Initiated a new Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for consumers with household incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.
  • Quadrupled the number of Navigators available to provide consumers with community-based enrollment assistance.
  • Decreased the number of single-issuer rural counties in the individual market by incentivizing issuers to enter service areas.
  • Increased FFM enrollment among underrepresented populations by 25%.
Access
• Established new requirements for network adequacy for qualified health plans (QHPs) on the FFM for Plan Year 2023.
• Set new requirements for issuers of QHPs in Marketplaces using the federal platform to offer standardized plans for Plan Year 2023.
• Strengthened essential community provider requirements.
• Streamlined HealthCare.gov operations by initiating a scaling back of pre-enrollment verification for SEPs to include only the SEP for loss of minimum essential coverage.

CCIIO’s Health Equity Actions
CCIIO’s Health Equity Actions

• Consumer Protections
  • Ensured health plan designs, particularly limitations and plan coverage requirements for Essential Health Benefits, are based on clinical evidence.
  • Pursued finalization of regulations prohibiting Marketplaces, issuers, agents, and brokers from discriminating against consumers on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
  • Collaborated with HHS on future rule-making regarding revisions to Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, to help protect consumers from discrimination.
  • Promulgated new regulations under the No Surprises Act related to surprise medical bills and unexpected health care costs, providing historic consumer protections against surprise medical bills and cost-sharing.
Looking Ahead