

# HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News Bulletin: Friday, June 28th, 2013

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](#).

## **Secretary's Corner**

### ➤ **June 27, 2013**

Secretary Sebelius released a statement regarding PTSD Awareness Month. "Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a severe anxiety disorder that can occur when people experience a traumatic event. PTSD can affect anyone – from service men and women returning from the horrors of war to abused children and the survivors of rape, domestic violence, or natural disasters." View the full statement [here](#).

### ➤ **June 26, 2013**

Secretary Sebelius released a statement on National HIV Testing Day 2013. "Do you know your HIV status?" On June 27, the nation will observe the 19<sup>th</sup> annual National HIV Testing Day. This year's theme is 'Take the Test. Take Control.' HIV testing is so important because it gives you the information you need to make good decisions about your health. If you test negative, you can take steps to stay that way (which may include periodic testing if you engage in high-risk behaviors). If you have HIV, there are medications that will help you stay healthy and live longer. These medications—known as antiretroviral therapy (ART)—also make it significantly less likely that you might pass the virus to someone else." View the full statement [here](#).

### ➤ **June 26, 2013**

Secretary Sebelius released a statement on Supreme Court ruling on DOMA. "Today's Supreme Court decision finding the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional is a victory for equality, which is a core belief of this administration. It is also a victory for families, especially those children whose parents' legal same sex marriages can now be recognized under federal law." View the full statement [here](#).

## **Affordable Care Act News**

### ➤ **June 28, 2013**

The Obama administration issued final rules that balance the goal of providing women with coverage for recommended preventive care – including contraceptive services prescribed by a health care provider – with no cost-sharing, with the goal of respecting the concerns of non-profit religious organizations that object to contraceptive coverage. The final rules reflect public feedback received in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued in February 2013. View the full statement [here](#).

### ➤ **June 27, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced a new funding opportunity designed to enhance the CMS' Financial Alignment Initiative. The initiative is designed to improve coordination of care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees. This funding opportunity will support states in developing independent ombudsman programs, helping beneficiaries in the demonstration have a positive care experience. View the full release [here](#).

### ➤ **June 27, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will start actively enforcing and will expect full compliance with the DME face-to-face requirements beginning on October 1, 2013. Due to concerns that some providers and suppliers may need additional time to establish operational protocols necessary to comply with face-to-face encounter requirements mandated

by the Affordable Care Act for certain items of DME, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will start actively enforcing and will expect full compliance with the DME face-to-face requirements beginning on October 1, 2013. View information about the statement [here](#).

➤ **June 27, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the redesign of the compare website to help consumers search for physicians. Physician Compare, a website that allows consumers to search and compare information about hundreds of thousands of physicians and other health care professionals, has been redesigned to make the site easier to use and provide new information for consumers. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Marilyn Tavenner announced the redesign, which includes an improved search function and more frequently updated information. View the full statement [here](#).

➤ **June 26, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) issued a final regulation explaining the eligibility rules for receiving an exemption from the individual shared responsibility provision through a Health Insurance Marketplace, as well as two subcategories of exemptions that will be available through the tax filing process. HHS' final regulation includes rules that will ease implementation and help to ensure that the shared responsibility payment obligation applies only to the limited group of taxpayers who have ready access to affordable coverage, but choose to spend a substantial period of time uninsured. View the IHS press release [here](#) and fact sheet [here](#).

➤ **June 24, 2013**

The Department of Health and Human Services launched Health Insurance Marketplace educational tools. [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) is the destination for the Health Insurance Marketplace. Americans may now access new educational information and learn what they can do to begin to get ready for open enrollment this fall. The website will add functionality over the summer so that, by October, consumers will be able to create accounts, complete an online application, and shop for qualified health plans. For Spanish speaking consumers, [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](http://CuidadoDeSalud.gov) will also be updated to match HealthCare.gov's new consumer focus. View the full statement in English [here](#), and En Español [here](#).

## **Health Care Blog Posts**

➤ **June 26, 2013**

Jason Young, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs/Health Care, wrote a blog post about improving health for LGBT Americans. "On this historic day, it's important to recall that, for too long, the health concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals were pushed to the side. LGBT Americans faced limited access to health care and insurance. And we have been less likely to get the preventive care we need to stay healthy." View the full blog post [here](#).

## **Educational Materials**

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

### **Health Insurance Marketplace**

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

### **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,*

<http://www.healthcare.gov/law/information-for-you/index.html>