

HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News Bulletin: Friday, May 24th, 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](#).

Secretary's Corner

➤ **May 22, 2013**

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that more than half of all doctors and other eligible providers have received Medicare or Medicaid incentive payments for adopting or meaningfully using electronic health records (EHRs). HHS has met and exceeded its goal for 50 percent of doctor offices and 80 percent of eligible hospitals to have EHRs by the end of 2013. View the full release [here](#).

➤ **May 22, 2013**

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote a blog post to all the 2013 graduates. "Congratulations on a well-earned graduation. I know how much hard work it took to get here today. This is a time when you're making big decisions about the future. You might be embarking on a new career, transitioning to a different city, and thinking about the start of this next exciting stage in life. I'm sure the last thing you're thinking about is health insurance. But unfortunately, the unexpected can happen. The good news is that now the Affordable Care Act provides protections and benefits that give you greater control of your health care. View the full post [here](#).

➤ **May 20, 2013**

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius honored EMS Responders during National EMS Week. "This week, our nation honors emergency medical service (EMS) professionals for their dedication to public service. As the HHS assistant secretary for preparedness and response, I know how important their role is in disasters. As a primary care physician, I know how important their work is every day. People rely on EMS in disasters and other public health emergencies, as well as for personal emergency care." View the full statement [here](#).

Affordable Care Act News

➤ **May 17, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) Program Provider Payment rule. Under the Affordable Care Act, this interim final rule adjusts pre-existing condition insurance plan provider rates to reduce the rate of program expenditures. View the rule [here](#) and the latest enrollment and expenditure information for PCIP [here](#).

➤ **May 17, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule implementing the Affordable Care Act Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) requirements for Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D prescription drug plans. The final rule limits how much plans can spend on marketing, overhead, and profit. The minimum MLR requirements will promote greater value for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in MA and Part D plans as well as promote greater accountability and transparency. Similar MLR requirements are already benefiting consumers in the private health insurance market. View the full [here](#) and blog posting [here](#).

White House Health Care Blog Posts

➤ **May 16, 2013**

Juliet K. Choi, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services posted a blog about removing obstacles to care for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. "May is "Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month," and there is no better time to talk about advancing health equity for all. The Affordable Care Act provides one of the most important levers by which we can advance that vision. The law will remove obstacles to care that many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders historically have faced and ensure that they will have better access to stable, affordable health insurance and high quality health care suited to their needs." View the full blog [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>