

HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

HMA Weekly Roundup

Trends in Health Policy

..... May 5, 2021



RFP CALENDAR

HMA News

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IN FOCUS

HMA ANALYSIS FINDS PROVIDER SPONSORED MA PLANS GENERALLY HAVE LOWER CHURN RATES

This week, our *In Focus* section examines differences in Medicare Advantage (MA) churn rates among select provider-sponsored plans (PSPs) and non-PSPs. Enrollee churn rates, or rates at which enrollees switch plans, may be an indicator of enrollee satisfaction. In the years studied, PSP organizations had lower average churn rates compared to non-PSP organizations.

[Read the full report here.](#)



HMA MEDICAID ROUNDUP

Alabama

Alabama COVID-19 Cases, Deaths Are Associated with High Rates of Uninsured, Study Finds. *The Alabama Political Reporter* reported on April 30, 2021, that 38 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Alabama through February 1, 2021, were associated with health insurance coverage gaps, according to a [study](#) released by Families USA. The report also found that nearly half of all COVID-19 cases in the state were associated with high community rates of uninsured. Alabama is not a Medicaid expansion state. [Read More](#)

Florida

Florida Files Federal Lawsuit Seeking \$97 Million in DSH, Low-Income Pool Medicaid Payments. *Becker's Hospital Review* reported on April 29, 2021, that the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration filed a federal lawsuit seeking payment of \$97.6 million in denied Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) and low-income pool Medicaid payments for the period from July 2006 to June 2013. The [lawsuit](#), which names the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), concerns payments largely for Miami-based Jackson Memorial Hospital, which serves large Medicaid and uninsured populations. An appellate board previously upheld the payment denial, which was based on a payment methodology the state disputes. [Read More](#)

Indiana

Indiana Medicaid NEMT Company Faces Criticism. *WAVE 3 News* reported on May 3, 2021, that Indiana Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) company Southeastrans is facing criticism over the adequacy of its services to beneficiaries. Southeastrans spokesman Jim Gavin said that increased demand for NEMT services has put a strain on the company's supply of transportation providers. [Read More](#)

Iowa

Medicaid Director to Focus on Social Determinants of Health. *The Gazette* reported on May 4, 2021, that the priorities for Iowa's incoming Medicaid Director Elizabeth Matney will include addressing social determinants of health, barriers to housing, food insecurity, unemployment, and other challenges. Matney takes over as head of the state Department of Human Services June 1. [Read More](#)

Kentucky

Kentucky to Rebid Medicaid Managed Care Contracts for Third Time. *The Courier Journal* reported on April 28, 2021, that Kentucky has been ordered to rebid the state's \$8 billion Medicaid managed care contracts for a third time. Franklin Circuit Judge Phillip Shepherd cited multiple flaws in the bidding process, which began in late 2019. Managed care organizations that won the contracts in both prior rounds of bidding included incumbents Aetna, Humana and Centene/WellCare. Two newcomers, UnitedHealthcare and Molina, were also among the winners. [Read More](#)

Mississippi

Mississippi Advocacy Group to Kick Off Petition Drive for Medicaid Expansion 2022 Ballot Initiative. *Mississippi Today* reported on May 4, 2021, that Mississippi Hospital Association-backed advocacy group Healthcare for Mississippi plans to kick off a petition drive to put Medicaid expansion on the 2022 midterm ballot. The ballot initiative will need 106,000 signatures to be included on the ballot. Expansion would cover an additional 200,000 people. [Read More](#)

Mississippi Is Likely to Extend Centene Medicaid Contract. *Mississippi Today* reported on May 3, 2021, that Mississippi is likely to extend Centene/Magnolia Health's Medicaid managed care contract for another year. The three-year contract, which began in 2017, was extended last year but contains an optional renewal through 2022. The state is investigating potential pharmacy cost overcharges. [Read More](#)

Missouri

Senate Budget Would Ease Hospital Transition to New Medicaid Outpatient Payment Model. *The Tacoma News Tribune/The Missouri Independent* reported on May 4, 2021, that the Missouri Senate budget plan includes \$50 million to hospitals to ease the transition to a new Medicaid outpatient payment model. The Outpatient Simplified Fee Schedule, which is based on the way Medicare pays for outpatient services, is expected to reduce state hospital payments. The state House budget proposal does not include transitional payments. [Read More](#)

Senate Votes Against Medicaid Expansion Funding. *The Missourian* reported on April 29, 2021, that the Missouri Senate voted against a budget bill amendment including funding for Medicaid expansion. The state House also previously approved a budget bill without funding for expansion. The issue over funding for Medicaid expansion, which Missouri voters approved in a ballot measure, will likely be decided in court. Expansion is set for July 2021. [Read More](#)

New Jersey

New Jersey Budget Proposal Includes Wage Increases for Critical Care Workers. The New Jersey Department of Human Services announced on May 4, 2021, that Governor Phil Murphy's fiscal 2022 budget proposal includes \$240 million in wage increases for workers who provide critical care to Medicaid beneficiaries, such as direct support professionals and Medicaid transportation providers. [Read More](#)

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Medicaid Enrollment Swells by More than 400,000. *WTF* reported on May 3, 2021, that Medicaid enrollment in Pennsylvania increased 14.7 percent, or 400,000 individuals, to 3.2 million since February 2020. The economic fallout from COVID-19 and federal rules preventing states from disenrolling Medicaid members during the pandemic drove the membership gains. [Read More](#)

Wisconsin

Molina Names Brian Maddy as Wisconsin Plan President. Molina Healthcare announced on May 4, 2021, that it has named Brian Maddy as president of Molina Healthcare of Wisconsin. Maddy previously served as chief strategy officer for University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OU Health) and was formerly chief executive of OU Physicians. [Read More](#)

Governor Includes Extended Medicaid Postpartum Coverage, Doula Services in Budget Proposal. *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on April 28, 2021, that Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' biennial budget [proposal](#) includes an extension of Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to a full year. The proposed budget also includes Medicaid coverage of doula services and an annual grant for community organizations seeking to reduce racial disparities related to infant and maternal mortality. [Read More](#)

National

Medicaid Expansion Reduces Hospital Uncompensated Care Costs, Study Says. *Eurekalert* reported on May 4, 2021, that Medicaid expansion has improved hospital finances and reduced uncompensated care costs, according to a study published in the *Medical Care Research and Review* journal. Using data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the study found uncompensated care costs in Medicaid expansion states dropped 32 percent from 2013. [Read More](#)

GAO Names Melanie Bella Chair of MACPAC. The Government Accountability Office (GAO), announced on May 3, 2021, the appointment of Melanie Bella as chair of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). Bella is an executive with Cityblock Health. GAO also named Kisha Davis of Aledade as vice chair. Both Bella and Davis were existing MACPAC members. New MACPAC members named include Heidi Allen of Columbia University School of Social Work, Robert Duncan of Children's Wisconsin, Laura Herrera Scott of Anthem, Verlon Johnson of CNSI, and Dennis Heaphy of Disability Advocates Advancing Our Healthcare Rights. [Read More](#)

Lawmakers Consider Mandatory Medicaid HCBS Coverage, Other Long-Term Care Reforms. *Modern Healthcare* reported on April 30, 2021, that Congressional Democrats are drafting legislation aimed at reforming long-term care, including making coverage of home and community-based services (HCBS) mandatory under Medicaid and providing additional federal matching funds. Other legislative proposals include increased access to Medicaid long-term care coverage and possible creation of a federal long-term care insurance program. [Read More](#)

GAO Says Behavioral Health Access Suffered During Pandemic. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on April 30, 2021, detailing how behavioral health access among low-income individuals declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, even as demand for services rose. The report points to mental health provider shortages, claims denials, and delays in provider claims payment under Medicaid managed care plans. The GAO recommended that the federal agencies evaluate the effectiveness of oversight efforts. [Read More](#)

CMS Adopts Provisions Aimed at Lowering Out-of-Pocket Maximums for 2022 Federal Exchange Plans. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on April 30, 2021, the adoption of provisions aimed at lowering Exchange plan maximum out-of-pocket costs, helping individuals distinguish among plan offerings, and expanding eligibility for special enrollment periods. The provisions are included in the second 2022 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters final rule. [Read More](#)



INDUSTRY NEWS

Stepping Stones Group Acquires Futures Health Group. Stepping Stones Group announced on May 5, 2021, that it acquired Massachusetts-based Futures Health Group, a nationwide provider of therapeutic and behavioral health services in school, home, and community settings. [Read More](#)

BrightView Acquires Ohio-based Life Spring Recovery. *The Cincinnati Business Courier* reported on May 4, 2021, that addiction treatment provider BrightView has acquired Ohio-based Life Spring Recovery, which serves nearly 1,500 patients at four centers in Ohio and Delaware. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. [Read More](#)

Center for Social Dynamics Acquires JF Autism Services. NMS Capital portfolio company Center for Social Dynamics (CSD) announced on May 4, 2021, the acquisition of JF Autism Services, a provider of home-based applied behavioral analysis services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder in Idaho and Washington. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Coker Capital and Clew Partners served as financial advisors to CSD, and McDermott Will & Emery provided legal advice to NMS and CSD. [Read More](#)

KFF Releases Medicaid Postpartum Coverage Tracker Tool. The Kaiser Family Foundation released on May 3, 2021, a tool that tracks recent state actions to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage, including 1115 waivers, legislation, and state plan amendments. [Read More](#)

HCA Healthcare Sells Four Hospitals to Piedmont Healthcare For \$950 Million. Tennessee-based HCA Healthcare announced on May 3, 2021, a definitive agreement to sell four hospitals in Georgia to not-for-profit health system Piedmont Healthcare for about \$950 million. Hospitals include Cartersville Medical Center, Coliseum Health System, Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health, and Eastside Medical Center. HCA Healthcare currently owns 186 hospitals and about 2,000 ambulatory sites in 20 states and the United Kingdom. [Read More](#)

Mentor Network Acquires Texas-based Sage Care Therapy Services. Mentor Network announced on April 28, 2021, the acquisition of Texas-based Sage Care Therapy Services, which provides home and community based services to more than 900 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mentor Network serves more than 35,000 individuals across 37 states, including Texas.

RFP CALENDAR

Date	State/Program	Event	Beneficiaries
Spring 2021	Louisiana	RFP Release	1,550,000
May 10, 2021	Minnesota MA Families, Children; MinnesotaCare (metro)	Awards	548,000
May 13, 2021	Nevada	Proposals Due	600,000
May 21, 2021	North Dakota Expansion	Awards	19,800
Summer 2021	Rhode Island	RFP Release	276,000
June 11, 2021	North Carolina - BH IDD Tailored Plans	Awards	NA
Q2 2021	Tennessee	RFP Release	1,500,000
July 1, 2021	North Carolina - Phase 1 & 2	Implementation	1,500,000
July 1, 2021	Missouri	RFP Release	756,000
July 1, 2021	Hawaii Quest Integration	Implementation	378,000
July 1, 2021	Hawaii Community Care Services	Implementation	4,500
August 2021	Texas STAR Health	RFP Release	36,500
September 7, 2021	Nevada	Awards	600,000
October 2021	Minnesota Seniors and Special Needs BasicCare	RFP Release	120,000
October 1, 2021	Oklahoma	Implementation	742,000
November 2021	Missouri	Awards	756,000
Late 2021	California Two Plan Commercial - Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare	RFP Release	1,640,000
Late 2021	California GMC - Sacramento, San Diego	RFP Release	1,091,000
Late 2021	California Imperial	RFP Release	75,000
Late 2021	California Regional - Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yuba	RFP Release	286,000
Late 2021	California San Benito	RFP Release	7,600
January 2022	Minnesota MA Families and Children, MinnesotaCare	RFP Release	543,000
January 1, 2022	Minnesota MA Families, Children; MinnesotaCare (metro)	Implementation	548,000
January 1, 2022	Nevada	Implementation	600,000
January 1, 2022	Massachusetts One Care (Duals Demo)	Implementation	150,000
January 1, 2022	North Dakota Expansion	Implementation	19,800
January 5, 2022	Ohio	Implementation	2,450,000
February 2022	Texas STAR Health	Awards	36,500
July 1, 2022	Rhode Island	Implementation	276,000
July 1, 2022	North Carolina - BH IDD Tailored Plans	Implementation	NA
July 1, 2022	Missouri	Implementation	756,000
Q2 SFY 2022	Texas STAR+PLUS	RFP Release	538,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California Two Plan Commercial - Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare	Awards	1,640,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California GMC - Sacramento, San Diego	Awards	1,091,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California Imperial	Awards	75,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California Regional - Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yuba	Awards	286,000
Early 2022 – Mid 2022	California San Benito	Awards	7,600
Q3 SFY 2022	Texas STAR+PLUS	Awards	538,000
January 1, 2023	Minnesota MA Families and Children, MinnesotaCare	Implementation	543,000
Q1 SFY 2023	Texas STAR & CHIP	RFP Release	3,700,000
Q2 SFY 2023	Texas STAR & CHIP	Awards	3,700,000
Q3 SFY 2023	Texas STAR Kids	RFP Release	166,000
Q4 SFY 2023	Texas STAR Kids	Awards	166,000
Q4 SFY 2023	Texas STAR Health	Implementation	36,500
January 2024	California Two Plan Commercial - Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare	Implementation	1,640,000
January 2024	California GMC - Sacramento, San Diego	Implementation	1,091,000
January 2024	California Imperial	Implementation	75,000
January 2024	California Regional - Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yuba	Implementation	286,000
January 2024	California San Benito	Implementation	7,600
Q1 SFY 2024	Texas STAR+PLUS	Implementation	538,000
Q4 SFY 2024	Texas STAR & CHIP	Implementation	3,700,000
Q2 SFY 2025	Texas STAR Kids	Implementation	166,000

HMA NEWS

New this week on HMA Information Services (HMAIS):

Medicaid Data

- DC Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 1.2%, Jan-21 Data
- Florida Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 3.7%, Mar-21 Data
- Minnesota Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 4.9%, Apr-21 Data
- North Dakota Medicaid Expansion Enrollment is Up 18.6%, 2020 Data
- Texas Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 3.2%, Feb-21 Data
- Virginia Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 2.0%, Jan-21 Data
- Virginia Medicaid MLTSS Enrollment is Up 0.6%, Jan-21 Data
- Washington Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment is Up 1.9%, Mar-21 Data

Public Documents:

Medicaid RFPs, RFIs, and Contracts:

- Colorado Medicaid External Quality Review RFP, Proposals, Award, and Contracts, 2017-21
- New York Innovative Medicaid Enterprise Systems RFI, Apr-21
- Ohio Medicaid Managed Care RFA, Award, Responses, Protests, and Related Documents, 2020-21

Medicaid Program Reports, Data and Updates:

- GAO Report – Behavioral Health: Patient Access, Provider Claims Payment, and the Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Apr-21
- Alabama Executive Budget, FY 2022
- Arkansas DHS External Quality Review Technical Report, FY 2020
- Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me (ARHOME) Waiver Booklet, May-21
- Colorado Children’s Health Plan Plus Caseload by County, 2014-20, Mar-21
- Idaho Medicaid IBHP External Quality Review Report, FY 2019-20
- Illinois Feasibility Report for Coverage Affordability Initiatives, Apr-21
- Illinois Medicaid Annual Reports, 2013-20
- Illinois Medical Programs External Quality Review Annual Reports, FY 2012-20
- Illinois Medical Programs Quality Strategy Reports, 2012-21
- Indiana Medicaid Managed Care Demographics by Age, Aid Category, and Program, 2016-20, Mar-21
- Michigan Dental Health Plans External Quality Review Technical Report, 2020
- Michigan Medicaid Health Plan External Quality Review Reports, FY 2014-20
- New York Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) 1115 Waiver, Proposed Amendments, Approval, Denial, and Related Documents, 2015-21
- North Dakota Medicaid Expansion Draft Quality Strategy Plans, 2018-21
- Ohio Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee Meeting Materials, Apr-21
- Ohio Medicaid Annual Reports, 2014-20

- Ohio Medicaid Budget Variance Report, 2017-20
- Ohio Medicaid External Quality Review Reports, 2017-20
- Ohio Medicaid Managed Care Plans Report Cards, 2015-20
- Pennsylvania OVR MLTSS Subcommittee Meeting Materials, May-21
- Tennessee External Quality Review Organization Technical Reports, 2016-20
- Texas Medicaid Managed Care and CHIP External Quality Review Reports, 2016-20
- Texas IDD and Behavioral Health Services Year in Review Report, FY 2020

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