



Home Health and Hospice Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

January 21, 2022

HHS Therapeutics Locator for Providers. HHS has set up a [landing page](#) for providers to use to locate therapeutics. It shows the 7,507 locations in which therapeutic products are available, how much of each product is available at that location, and total available and allotted doses in the country.

Save the Date! 2022 VBID Hospice Benefit Component – Office Hours. The Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) Model Team will host an office hours session on Thursday February 3rd, 2022 on the Hospice Benefit Component to provide technical and operational support to interested stakeholders. During this office hour session, presenters will answer questions submitted in advance to the VBID Mailbox and also offer attendees an opportunity to ask additional questions. Please submit questions in advance by emailing the VBID Mailbox at VBID@cms.hhs.gov.

When:

Thursday, February 3, 2022
2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

How to Join:

Registration for the webinar is now open. Register now using the link [here](#).
Event number: [2457 421 1948](#)
Event password: officehours0203

Additional Resources: The slides, transcripts and audio recordings of these webinars will be posted to the VBID Model website at <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/vbid> for downloading a week after the webinar. For more information, visit the VBID overview page, the VBID hospice provider webpages or contact VBID@cms.hhs.gov.

CMS Vaccine Mandate Now Applies in Texas . Texas has joined the rest of the country and is now subject to the CMS vaccine mandate. A federal judge dismissed the case brought by Texas challenging the CMS vaccine mandate. The federal court had previously issued a temporary injunction, but formally dismissed the case following last week's Supreme Court decision allowed the CMS vaccine mandate to move forward.

OSHA Recordkeeping Requirements Still in Place for Healthcare Providers. As we all know, the U.S. Supreme Court has blocked OSHA from enforcing the OSHA Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) proposed in November 2021. In addition, the June 2021 OSHA Healthcare ETS expired on December 21, 2021, except for all of the non-recordkeeping provisions.

In a [statement](#), OSHA reiterated the recordkeeping provisions remain in place for *healthcare providers*. Under the recordkeeping and reporting provisions of the Healthcare ETS, health care employers with more than 10 employees must continue the following actions:

- Establish and maintain a log of COVID-19 cases among employees, regardless of whether or not they are connected to workplace exposures;
- Provide, by the end of the next business day upon request, the individual COVID-19 log entry of an employee to that employee and any person who has the written consent of the employee;
- Provide, by the end of the next business day upon request, a version of the COVID-19 log with personally identifiable information of employees removed to any employees or their personal or authorized representatives;
- Provide, by the end of the next business day, all COVID-19 records to OSHA;
- Report to OSHA any work-related COVID-19 fatality within eight hours of learning of the fatality; and
- Report to OSHA any work-related COVID-19 inpatient hospitalization within 24 hours of learning of the hospitalization.

Booster Requirements by State. We've updated our [Vaccine Mandates by State article](#) to include those states now requiring boosters and/or "up to date status" on vaccines. So far, there are six states that have implemented such mandates, or will soon: California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, and New York.

Public Health Emergency Renewed for Another 90 Days. As expected HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra announced Friday that the [Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) would be renewed](#) for another 90 days, until April 16; this is the eighth time it has been extended since the original declaration in the beginning of 2020. The new 90 day clock starts today. There was no doubt it would be renewed as the Biden Administration had promised earlier that it would not end the PHE without giving at least 60 days notice. As a reminder, 90 days is the maximum length of time the PHE can be extended at one time.

HHA Preview Report Announcement Sent in Error. On Friday, January 14, 2022, CMS sent a notice to HHA Providers stating that their **Preview Reports and Star Rating Preview Reports for the April 2022 Refresh** of Care Compare/Provider Data Catalog, had been updated and were ready for viewing. We would like to note that this announcement was sent in error. Please disregard. CMS will be sending an announcement at a later date, when the HHA reports have been disseminated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to write the HH QRP Public Reporting help desk at homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov.

Now Available: 2021 LeadingAge Annual Meeting Session Playback Package. The October Annual Meeting agenda included sessions to help us strengthen the aging services workforce, advance equity and diversity in our sector, reset the narrative of aging services for the public, and much more. The [Session Playback Package](#) is now available to access and includes all keynotes, as well as over 25 education sessions.

2022 Tech Predictions for Aging Services and More CAST News. [Read the latest update](#) from the [LeadingAge Center for Aging Services Technologies](#) (CAST) director Majd Alwan. Learn how to start a support program at your organization, explore new year predictions, review results of telehealth studies, and more.

Next Week: Workshop On Shaping Public Perceptions of Our Sector. How do we introduce ourselves to the public? LeadingAge developed a research and communications initiative to find out. Opening Doors to Aging Services offers members a chance to learn how to deploy the best strategies to introduce aging

services to the public. In this live, interactive online workshop, you'll learn to strengthen your social media, website, and media relations and get access to an array of communications templates to support your work. [Register for the live online workshop on January 27 now!](#)