

eHealth Commission October 2022 News Highlights

Health IT/Broadband-

- **(Federal Policy/Public Comment) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)-Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), CMS Asks for Public Input on Establishing First, National Directory of Health Care Providers and Services (10/5/22)**- CMS released this request for information (RFI) seeking public input on the concept of CMS creating a “National Directory of Healthcare Providers and Services” (NDH). The public comment period ends 12/6/22. [Retrieved at: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-asks-public-input-establishing-first-national-directory-health-care-providers-and-services>]
- **(Federal Report) HHS-Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Improving Healthcare Through AHRQ’s Digital Health Care Research Program: 2021 Year in Review (9/2022)**- This report highlights research supported by AHRQ’s Digital Healthcare Research Program in 2021, an investment of \$30 million, and summarizes the impact of the research with a focus on three key themes: engaging and empowering patients, optimizing care delivery for clinicians, and supporting health systems in advancing care delivery. [Retrieved^{1*} at: <https://digital.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/docs/page/ahrq-dhr-2021-year-in-review.pdf>]
- **(Federal Report) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), GAO-22-106175, Public Health Emergencies: Data Management Challenges Impact National Response (9/22/22)**- This GAO report reviews longstanding challenges in the federal government’s management of public health data, adversely impacting the response to public health emergencies. [Retrieved at: https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-106175?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=topic_health&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery]
- **(National Report) Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP), National Telehealth Resource Center for Policy: Ten-Year Anniversary Report (9/2022)**- CCHP presents an overview of telehealth policy from 2012-2022. [Retrieved at: <https://www.cchpca.org/2022/08/10YearReportfinal.pdf>]

Social Determinants of Health/Health Equity-

- **(Practice Guide) The Commonwealth Fund, Making the Business Case for Social Needs Interventions—An Update (9/30/22)**- Within this blog, the Commonwealth Fund outlines key takeaways from its updated evidence guide of 80 studies of social needs interventions for adults, specifically the impact on healthcare utilization and costs. A link to the updated guide is embedded within the blog. [Retrieved at: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2022/making-business-case-social-needs-interventions-update?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Improving+Health+Care+Quality]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned Report) The Century Foundation, Health Equity in Practice: A Framework to Assess Meaningful Implementation in Health Insurance Reforms (9/21/22)**- In this report, the foundation discusses ways to advance health equity through health coverage reforms. [Retrieved at: https://tcf.org/content/report/health-equity-in-practice-a-framework-to-assess-meaningful-implementation-in-health-insurance-reforms/?mc_cid=86bfefab6a&mc_eid=a16bc2907d&agreed=1]

^{1*} All sites retrieved 10/6/22.

- **(Federal Report) HHS-Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), Landscape of Area-Level Deprivation Measures and Other Approaches to Account for Social Risk and Social Determinants of Health in Health Care Payments (9/26/22)**- As taken from the reflections, “The purpose of the RAND report, commissioned by ASPE, is to evaluate different area-level indices of social determinants of health (SDOH) for potential use in determining health care payments.” [Retrieved at: https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/area-level-measures-account-sdoh?utm_campaign=LPCA%20Alliances&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=227494813&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9y0BBn6fXENIqTBsQVJt36328MEDOgdPyJsc1cTR3zcb6MilJJKSaKzleXm5JmMOo7KJFQI2fWFN4-zkvJ5H1ZTT_Kj5dl4zJoQNpgLBYBlfjGjNo&utm_content=227494813&utm_source=hs_email]
- **(National Report) Alignment Healthcare (ALHC), 2022 Social Threats to Aging Well in America (8/29/22)**- This report reviews the three top social barriers to senior health as found through the 2022 Social Threats to Aging Well in America survey (i.e., economic instability, loneliness, and food insecurity). [Retrieved at: <https://www.alignmenthealth.com/files/2022-ALHC-Social-Threats-to-Aging-Well>]

Medicaid-

- **(States Highlight) HHS Approves Groundbreaking Medicaid Initiatives in Massachusetts and Oregon (9/28/22)**- This press release showcases new demonstration initiatives in Oregon and Massachusetts to improve health coverage to vulnerable populations, perhaps serving as a model for other states. Links to the demonstrations are provided. [Retrieved at: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/hhs-approves-groundbreaking-medicaid-initiatives-massachusetts-and-oregon>]
- **(Policy/Practice Framework) The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Advancing Health Equity: A New Measurement Framework for Medicaid (9/15/22)**- NCQA proports that advancements in health equity are especially important for Medicaid because the program includes enrollees more likely to be low-income and to experience negative health disparities. NCQA released this quality measurement framework as a key accountability tool to promoting health equity in managed care contracts. [Retrieved at: <https://www.ncqa.org/blog/advancing-health-equity-a-new-measurement-framework-for-medicaid/>]

Public Health/Other Health News-

- **(Federal Policy) The White House, Biden-Harris Administration National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health (9/2022)**- Coinciding with the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, a first in over 50 years, the Biden-Harris Administration released this national strategy, inclusive of five pillars to end hunger and reduce diet-related diseases and disparities. [Retrieved at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/White-House-National-Strategy-on-Hunger-Nutrition-and-Health-FINAL.pdf>]
- **(Federal Report) HHS-ASPE, HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration (9/16/22)**- This issue brief/report provides an overview of HHS efforts to improve integrated care. [Retrieved at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/hhs-roadmap-behavioral-health-integration>]
- **(States Health Data) The Commonwealth Fund, State Health Data Center-** In mid-September, The Commonwealth Fund announced updates to its State Health Data Center, which allows users to explore state-level health system performance and policy data. [Retrieved at: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/datacenter?utm_source=fundalert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Outright]
- **(Federal Report) National Science and Technology Council, First Annual Report on Progress Toward Implementation of the American Pandemic Preparedness Plan (9/2022)**- This report summaries progress made towards the American Pandemic Preparedness: Transforming our Capabilities Plan released one year prior and provides priorities for federal agencies in the upcoming year. [Retrieved at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/09-2022-AP3-FIRST-ANNUAL-REPORT-ON-PROGRESS.pdf?utm_campaign=LPCA%20Alliances&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=225194348&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--PsR5Ykk1QD-4HX65Qj0WxISpYMvAb9fZRoemKgY6yDUAmfowbkU90jSJ3775tmy85c62Hcv1xyf67dygujsUxLtXi7d18fgngKuPbKx7rsSsvtE0&utm_content=225194348&utm_source=hs_email]