

# Weekly Digest

• September 28, 2021 •

## Agencies Clarify Implementation Dates for Group Health Plan Transparency Rules

"In response to the overlap between the transparency in coverage Final Rules and CAA transparency provisions and the lack of administrative infrastructure needed to implement some of the new requirements, the Departments postponed certain enforcement dates pending additional rulemaking and clarified that other provisions will simply require good faith compliance based on a reasonable interpretation of the statute and regulations."

[Full Article](#)

**Spencer Fane**



## CMS Will Pay for COVID-19 Booster Shots, Eligible Consumers Can Receive at No Cost

"Beneficiaries with Medicare pay nothing for COVID-19 vaccines or their administration, and there is no applicable copayment, coinsurance or deductible. COVID-19 vaccines and their administration, including boosters, will also be covered without cost-sharing for eligible consumers of most issuers of health insurance in the commercial market." [Full Article](#)

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS], U.S. Department of Health and Human**

EMPLOYEE  
BENEFITS

## In This Digest

### PAGE 1

#### Agencies Clarify Implementation Dates for Group Health Plan Transparency Rules

*By, Spencer Fane*

#### CMS Will Pay for COVID-19 Booster Shots, Eligible Consumers Can Receive at No Cost

*By, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS], U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [HHS]*

### PAGE 2

#### The Impact of the ACA Employer Shared Responsibility Rules and Wellness Program Limits on COVID-19 Premium Surcharges

*By, Mintz*

#### The DOL's Laser Focus on Mental Health Parity: Practical Considerations for Plan Sponsors

*By, Maynard Cooper & Gale*

#### New Studies Show Efficacy of Telemedicine in Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment, as More Health Plans Explore Partnerships

*By, Foley & Lardner LLP*

#### Trends in Health Savings Account Balances, Contributions, Distributions, and Investments and the Impact of COVID-19

*By, Employee Benefit Research Institute [EBRI]*

Page 1

## The Impact of the ACA Employer Shared Responsibility Rules and Wellness Program Limits on COVID-19 Premium Surcharges

"A surcharge that passes muster under the ACA wellness rules does not necessarily guarantee compliance with the ADA provisions governing voluntary wellness programs. But since the EEOC has yet to issue guidance addressing the matter, employers are currently left to design their programs based on assumptions of what would be considered compliant." [Full Article](#)

**Mintz**

### DOL's Laser Focus on Mental Health Parity: Practical Considerations for Plan Sponsors

"Design and implement a comprehensive MHPAEA compliance program, including the designation of key personnel within the organization to be in charge of parity compliance; determine which vendors to contact; develop a list of specific questions; document all communications; analyze the data provided by the insurer/TPA and other vendors; complete the section of the DOL's MHPAEA Self-Compliance Tool that relates to NQTLs, and; if needed, identify areas of concern and implement appropriate corrective action."

[Full Article](#)

**Maynard Cooper & Gale**



### New Studies Show Efficacy of Telemedicine in Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment, as More Health Plans Explore Partnerships

"During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. has experienced a troubling rise in alcohol consumption with parallels to an increased number of individuals struggling with alcohol use disorder (AUD). Enter a new wave of telemedicine-based virtual AUD treatment providers that reach providers and patients in a uniquely modern way." [Full Article](#)

**Foley & Lardner LLP**

## Trends in Health Savings Account Balances, Contributions, Distributions, and Investments and the Impact of COVID-19

"Between 2011 and 2020, end-of-year account balances increased but remained low. Average total contributions -- combined individual and employer contributions -- increased. However, the average was just above the minimum allowable deductible amount for family coverage and less than one-half of the allowable contribution maximum for family coverage. Overall, just over half of account holders withdrew funds." [Full Article](#)

**Employee Benefit Research Institute [EBRI]**

