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 Services [HHS]
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.”  

Foley & Lardner LLP

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.”

Maynard Cooper & Gale

Employee Benefit Research Institute [EBRI]

This Weekly Digest is not intended to be exhaustive nor should any discussion or opinions be construed as legal advice. Readers should contact legal counsel for legal advice.