



# Policy & Politics Monthly Update

February 18, 2021



Be informed.  
Be involved.

# Agenda

## Information Blocking Resource Center

- Launch
- Partners
- Content
- Next Steps

## Patient ID/UPI and COVID-19

- Conversations with Members
- Next Steps

## Congressional Update

- COVID-19 relief package
- Becerra Hearing

## Federal Update

- Info Blocking Education Webinar
- Timeline of Key 2021 dates

# INFORMATION BLOCKING

## RESOURCE CENTER

- Powered by CHIME, [InfoBlockingCenter.org](https://InfoBlockingCenter.org) is a new resource center partnership
- Focused on educating provider focused organizations on how best to prepare for the April 5, 2021 information blocking applicability date
- Center launched on Feb. 5, 2021 – two months before the applicability date delayed by ONC in Nov., 2020

# InfoblockingCenter.org Partners

- [InfoBlockingCenter.org](http://InfoBlockingCenter.org) is a collaboration between CHIME and seven other organizations, including:
  - American College of Physicians (ACP)
  - American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
  - American Medical Association (AMA)
  - American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
  - American Psychiatric Association (APA)
  - Multi-Group Management Association (MGMA)
  - Premier Inc.

All new participants must be approved by existing partners, if you'd like an organization added, email us at [policy@chimecentral.org](mailto:policy@chimecentral.org)



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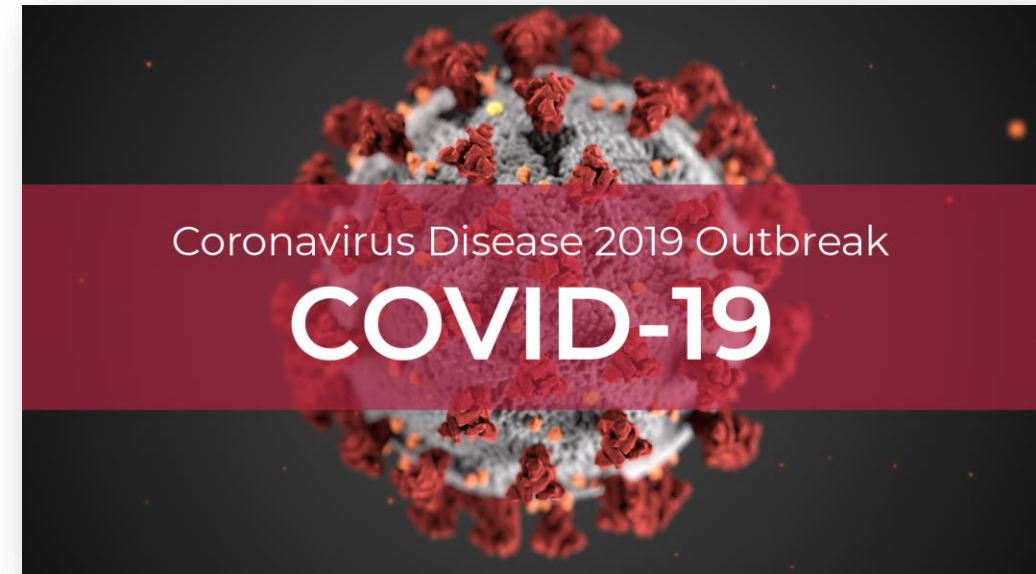
# InfoBlockingCenter.org Content

Content includes resources applicable to:

- Federal resources surrounding information blocking from ONC and CMS
- Information Blocking Actors
- Information Blocking and COVID-19
- Information Blocking and Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Information Blocking Compliance
- Information Blocking Education
- Information Blocking Exceptions
- Information Blocking Overview
- Patient Resources

# Next Steps for InfoBlockingCenter.org

- CHIME continues to work with the other partners to update and provide additional content, as well as education, related to information blocking
- We continue to evaluate new organizations to be included with the currently listed resources
- We will use [InfoBlockingCenter.org](https://InfoBlockingCenter.org) as a coordination tool to better assist the provider sphere as a whole in preparation for April 5, 2021 and other key information blocking related deadlines



# Patient ID, UPI and COVID-19

# The Issue at Hand

- Several members have indicated to CHIME that there are active and long-term issues related to capturing the information of patients and then later identifying and matching those patients to their records.
- This issue spans to even creating a record for a new patient or locating a record at a provider organization that the patient has visited in the past.
- This has led to members being unable to report vaccination data to the state, complicating their ability to distribute doses



# States to Identify Issues Related Patient ID and COVID-19 (so far)

- California
- D.C.
- Indiana
- Michigan
- Missouri
- New Jersey
- New York
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Texas
- Virginia

# Member Relayed Issues Include:

- Lack of medical record number on paper mass-vax in-take form resulting in state record system rejecting records
- Not enough information required at time of vaccination to maintain a certified match within EHR system
- Lack of second dose scheduling creating problems identifying those who have not returned for second shot
- Records not accepted by state vaccination system result in state believing provider has not delivered any doses, when in fact they have no remaining
- 1,000s of duplicate records created in systems because a new record is created for each dose and they are already an existing patient
- Large systems with multiple EHRs struggling to coordinate on reporting and record consolidation
- Large number of staff and time required to locate and match records manually and collect information at the time of vaccination

# Next Steps

## Federal

- Transmit member stories to ONC for inclusion in their forthcoming patient matching report
- Target agencies included in the Executive Order on COVID-19 data collection improvements for potential advocacy

## Congressional

- Share member stories in meetings with Hill offices
- Continue pursuing a Senate champion to lead Dear Colleague letter

# Join Our Next Workgroup!

- Tuesday, February 23 at 1:00pm ET
  - Register Here: <https://chimecentral.zoom.us/j/96402829156?from=addon>

**Make sure your voice and stories are heard!**

For more information contact us at [policy@chimecentral.org](mailto:policy@chimecentral.org)



# Congressional Update

# Capitol Hill Update

- **House**

- House Committees marked up their pieces of the COVID-19 relief package. Next, members of the Budget Committee will meet to combine all of the pieces into a final \$1.9 trillion package. Floor consideration is expected the week of Feb. 22.

- **Senate**

- The Senate completed the impeachment trial of former President Trump over the weekend. Senators fell short of the 2/3 majority required to convict the President.
- The Senate is in recess this week and is expected to focus on confirming President Biden's cabinet nominees, as well as COVID-19 relief, when they come back on Feb. 22.
  - [HELP Hearing](#) on the Becerra Nomination: Tuesday, Feb. 23rd at 10:00 am
  - [Finance Hearing](#) on the Becerra Nomination: Wednesday, Feb. 24th at 2:30 pm

# Appropriations Update

- Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) finally [released](#) their subcommittee rosters for the 117th Congress
  - The Labor-HHS Subcommittee will be chaired by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) with Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) serving as ranking member.
- Leahy as well as Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), the Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, are expected to announce that they are reinstating earmarks in the coming weeks
  - Will likely refer to them as "congressionally directed spending"
  - Expect guardrails
- While subcommittees have not set deadlines for appropriations requests, offices are starting to set their own deadlines for March/April



# Federal Update



# Report Biden CMS Pick – Chiquita Brooks-LaSure



## Former:

- Managing Director - Manatt, Phelps & Phillips
- Various Roles - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Professional Staff - Ways and Means
- Program Examiner - OMB

## Education:

- Masters of Public Policy, Georgetown
- Bachelors in Politics, Princeton

# Next Info Blocking Education Webinar – Feb 23 at 2:00 pm ET

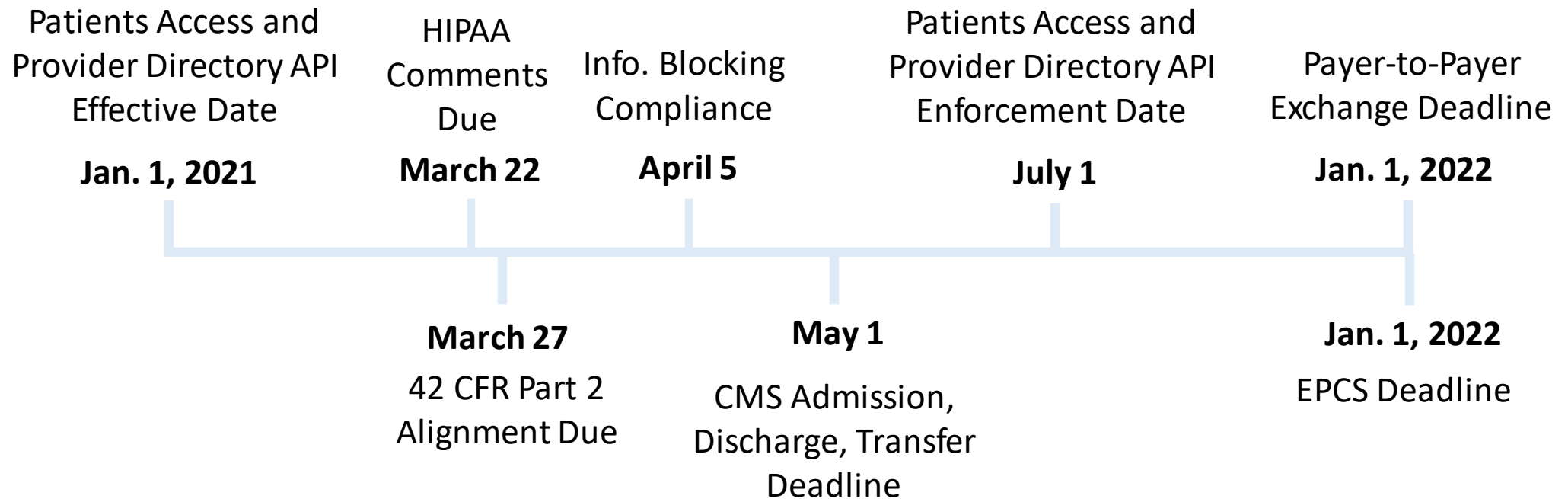
Our next Information Blocking Webinar is Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 2:00pm ET

Register today: [https://chimecentral.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NBzuPBbRS7OHe1Zn3WLNMA](https://chimecentral.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NBzuPBbRS7OHe1Zn3WLNMA)

Topics will include:

- April 5, 2021 deadline
- New considerations since Nov. 2, 2020 and mitigation tactics
- Available resources
- What's to come

# Timeline of Key 2021 Dates\*



\* Dates may shift as agencies respond to COVID and the Administration change

# Have Questions?

Reach out to us at [policy@chimecentral.org](mailto:policy@chimecentral.org)

