

Link for HealthCare.gov removed from CMS.gov header

Website Monitoring Mini-report

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The purpose of “mini-reports” is to inform journalists, experts, and the public about a reported or developing news story. A “mini-report” is a condensed version of one of the Web Integrity Project’s [website monitoring reports](#), created on a rapid timeline to explain a narrowly scoped alteration, and is not a comprehensive analysis of a website.

Summary of findings and context:

In mid-October 2018, the text “Learn about [your health care options](#),” which included a link to the HealthCare.gov homepage, was removed from its prominent position in the the header of the CMS.gov domain. HealthCare.gov, which is managed and paid for by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is the primary federal health insurance exchange established under provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The removal of the text and link came just a few weeks before the beginning of the Open Enrollment period to sign up for ACA coverage, which runs from November 1 to December 15, 2018.

Webpage 1:

Page title: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (homepage)

Website status: Altered (*this occurred on **October 11, 2018**, between **7:24 PM EDT** and **9:27 PM EDT** according to the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine (IAWM) snapshots of the homepage, which are provided below*)

- Before: [October 11, 2018](#) (7:24 PM)
- After: [October 11, 2018](#) (9:27 PM)

Note: *IAWM displays time in GMT, but WIP reports dates and times in EST/EDT.*

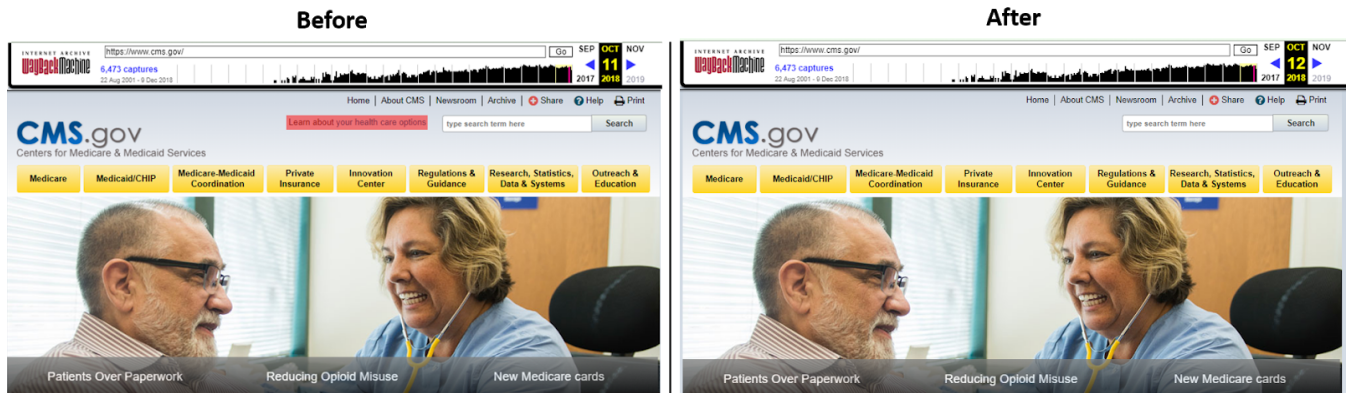
URL: <https://www.cms.gov/>

Description of change:

1. The text “Learn about [your health care options](#)” and corresponding link with the URL <https://www.healthcare.gov/> was removed from the upper right-hand side of the CMS.gov header.
 - a. The text and link were formerly positioned next to the search bar in the CMS.gov header, which appears on pages throughout the CMS.gov domain.
2. Links to HealthCare.gov appear on other parts of the website, including in the main body of the CMS.gov homepage and the CMS.gov footer.

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Screenshot: A comparison of a portion of the CMS.gov homepage on [October 11, 2018](#) at 7:24 PM and [October 11, 2018](#) 9:27 PM, as captured by the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine. Red highlights indicate removed content.



Note: The same text and link were removed from the header of innovation.CMS.gov, a subdomain of CMS.gov, between [October 10, 2018](#) and [October 12, 2018](#). The text and link were added back to the innovation.CMS.gov header between [November 29, 2018](#) and [December 1, 2018](#).