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**March 16, 2020**

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*Welcome to America's Physician Groups' "Healthcare on the Hill," where you can get the latest on healthcare happenings in our nation's capital--and with a special focus on the value-based care movement.*

*As our nation--and the world--continues to face the many challenge presented by COVID-19, we are working to ensure you have the very latest information on the virus and our rapidly changing healthcare landscape.*

*Think someone else may enjoy "Healthcare on the Hill?" **Forward this email and have them click [here](#) to be added to our subscription list.** And remember, you can always visit our [website](#) for more news and resources.*

**Valinda Rutledge**  
**Senior Vice President of Federal Affairs**  
**America's Physician Groups**

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There are many questions around the recent policy and regulatory changes being issued by the Trump Administration and its agencies in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). We are committed to providing you with a clear understanding of what these changes mean for you, your practices, and the communities you serve.

## **President Trump Declares National Emergency, Issues Coronavirus Guidelines**

President Trump declared a National Emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic and released “**The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America - 15 Days to Slow the Spread.**” While the guidelines are not yet available online, they include the following:

- Listen to and follow the directions of your state and local authorities.
- If you feel sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
- If your children are sick, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.
- If someone in your household has tested positive for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.
- If you are an older person, stay home and away from other people.
- If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.
- Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Following the declaration of a National Emergency, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced several actions and regulatory changes to help healthcare providers fight the spread COVID-19. You can find the CMS press release announcing the changes [here](#) and fact sheet detailing the changes [here](#). We anticipate CMS publishing additional details on these changes soon and will share those details with you.

CMS also published a [memorandum](#) regarding the expanded flexibility in Medicare Advantage (MA).

## **Congress Responds to COVID-19**

Congress passed the [Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act](#) in which \$8.3 billion of funds were released to assist the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), States and the Small Business Administration (SBA). This legislation modifies requirements for telehealth for

traditional Medicare. We are currently waiting on further details on the additional telehealth flexibilities which can be implemented for Medicare fee-for-service (FFS).

In addition, House of Representatives has passed the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#). This bill responds to the coronavirus outbreak by providing paid sick leave and free coronavirus testing, expanding food assistance and unemployment benefits, and requiring employers to provide additional protections for health care workers.

### **We Are Here to Serve**

We have compiled a wealth of resources to ensure you have the information you need as we all face the many challenges brought by COVID-19. I encourage you to visit our [website](#) for more information.

As always, please know that we are in constant contact with federal and agency officials and will share any additional news with you as soon as possible.



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