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March 23, 2020

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

CMS Announces Relief for Providers in Quality Reporting Programs

As America's healthcare system continues to face unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19, APG remains hard at work, advocating to help our members continue to care for the patients and communities they serve. In response to our advocacy efforts, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently [announced](#)

[relief](#) for providers participating in quality reporting programs which is greatly appreciated. For 2019 data submission, providers and ACOs can either delay submission until April 30, 2020 or choose to not submit any MIPS data and receive a neutral adjustment.

Congress Responds to COVID-19

Congress has responded to COVID-19 with three key pieces of legislation. First, Congress passed the [Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act](#) in which \$8.3 billion of funds were released to assist HHS, States and the Small Business Administration. This legislation allowed HHS to begin deploying resources for testing and screening.

Second, Congress passed the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) which provides paid sick leave and free coronavirus testing, expands food assistance and unemployment benefits, and expands Medicaid funding.

Finally, Congress is currently negotiating a third legislative package which has reached \$1.6 trillion and is primarily aimed at providing relief for small businesses and industries (including healthcare) ravaged by COVID-19. We are continuing to monitor its progress.

Telehealth

APG and America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) sent a joint letter to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requesting additional guidance on access to telehealth services for the more than 32 million Americans enrolled in high-deductible health plans (HDHPs) subject to IRS regulations. The letter highlights the importance of telehealth services in both mitigating COVID-19 and protecting healthcare workers, who are on the front lines of this global challenge. Please click [here](#) to view the letter.

CMS has also published telehealth toolkits for General Practitioners and End-Stage Renal Disease providers that will help many providers navigate the resources available. You can find the Telehealth toolkit for General Practitioners [here](#) and the End-Stage Renal toolkit [here](#).

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This message was sent to dallen@apg.org from:

Valinda Rutledge | America's Physician Groups | 1501 M Street, NW | Washington, DC 20005

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