APG COVID-19 Member Update  
March 27, 2020

Dear APG Members:

As this unprecedented health crisis continues, APG remains active in advocating on behalf of your practice and the patients and communities you serve. We will keep you updated with the very latest on COVID-19, any changes in legislation or regulations that you need to know, and best practices that some of your colleagues are implementing to help address this global challenge.

Breaking News:

As the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be felt across the nation, the health, safety, and well-being of the APG community are our highest priorities. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our Annual Conference 2020, May 28-30 in San Diego.

Please click here for more information on Annual Conference 2020 cancellation.

By The Numbers:

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, there are 558,502 cases of coronavirus worldwide. This includes 86,012 cases in the United States, which leads all other countries in number of cases.
In an article appearing today in *Politico*, former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, warned that the next cities he believes will see a surge in COVID-19 cases are Atlanta, Detroit, Los Angeles, and New Orleans.

**Federal Update:**

President Trump signed into law the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2) this afternoon.

We have highlighted some key components of the legislation that are of importance to you and your organization:

1. Paycheck Protection Program-Small Business Loan 7(a)- Less than 500 employees
2. Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) – $100 Billion Grants for Hospitals and Health Care Providers
3. Additional Telehealth flexibilities
4. Accelerated Medicare Payments for Hospitals
5. Waiver of Post-Acute Policies
6. Increased Medicare Payment for hospital discharges
7. Suspension of sequestration
8. Funds for Rural programs

We will review details behind these key elements during our Tuesday, March 31 webinar (see below), as well as discuss our next advocacy priorities. Additionally, we will also publish a summary of the CARES Act for your reference.

**State Update:**

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it has approved Medicaid waiver requests under Section 1135 (a Section 1135 waiver) of the Social Security Act for a total of 34 states. Section 1135 waivers provide states with additional flexibilities to help them fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

received the Section 1135 waiver. You can also click here for the latest State Licensure information.

**Educational Opportunities:**

As part of our efforts to keep you updated on what the CARES Act means to the patients and communities you serve, **APG will be hosting a webinar for our members on Tuesday, March 31 at 2:00 pm Eastern.** During the webinar, I will be providing a section-by-section overview of the legislation and will share additional resources that you and your practice may want to consider such as how to obtain small business loans and clarification on the use of telehealth codes.

Please click here to register for the webinar. We will send out additional details as needed.

**APG Members in Action:**

Denver-based APG member **New West Physicians** is addressing the challenges brought on by COVID-19 by reducing the number of clinics that are seeing patients until the epidemic subsides. This accomplishes multiple goals including:

- Safer clinic visits for patients by allowing for focused infection control at a limited number of clinics
- Allowing for the development of a specialized COVID-19 clinic to see all patients with potential COVID-19 infection. This enhances quality of care for patients with COVID-19 while reducing risk at other clinics for patients with other medical problems
- Reducing the number of healthcare providers providing direct care at any given time to maintain a healthy workforce to care for patients
- Reducing the number of open clinics allows for expanded patient access from 5 to 7 days a week

APG member **Vancouver Clinic** rapidly organized to provide video visits to patients. Their IT team came up with a solution that integrates Zoom with Epic MyChart. This solution was developed in three days and is now being widely used throughout the Clinic.
Do you have any COVID-19 best practices you'd like to share? Please email David Allen, APG Director of Communications, with a brief description of what you're doing and we'll do our best to share your practice in a subsequent update.

We are here to serve as a resource for you. Please don't hesitate to contact me here with any questions you may have or any situations within your practice that you want me to be aware of.

You can find more resources on our COVID-19 web page. 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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