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March 30, 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
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CARES Act Passes

On Friday, March 27, President Trump signed into law the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#). We have highlighted some key components of the legislation that are of importance to you and your organization:

- Paycheck Protection Program-Small Business Loan
- Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF)
- Additional Telehealth Flexibilities
- Accelerated Medicare Payments
- Waiver of Post-Acute Policies
- Increased Medicare Payment for Hospital Discharges
- Suspension of Sequestration
- Funding for Rural Programs

CMS Expands its Medicare Advantage Payment Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced over the weekend that it will expand its Medicare accelerated and advance payment program to include physicians and other healthcare providers as part of the nation's response to coronavirus (COVID-19). These payments will help ensure that physician groups and other providers who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 fight have the resources they need to care for the patients and communities they serve.

CMS will begin accepting applications on Monday, March 30 and has indicated that payments will be issued within seven days of receiving a request.

APG was instrumental in advocating for this expansion. Last week, we joined other health organizations in sending a [letter](#) to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CMS, urging action to make certain that America's healthcare providers to periodic interim payments to healthcare providers and ensure they have the tools they need to answer the growing call for care.

Please click [here](#) to view the CMS press release and [here](#) for a CMS fact sheet on the expansion of the accelerated and advance payment program.

APG Sends Letter to CMS/CMMI on Risk Mitigation Strategies

APG and Premier also sent a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma and Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) Director Brad Smith, asking that the agency provide relief and additional flexibility for payment and delivery service models during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The letter calls for CMS to consider modifying the 2020 reconciliation process. In addition, the letter compiles a specific set of recommendations for individual models

including Medicare Advantage, ACOs, and Bundled Payments that would address ongoing and potential issues in the areas of attribution, quality, benchmarking, coding, and waiver policies.

Trump Administration Sends Letter to Hospitals to Report Data Relating to COVID-19

Vice President Pence sent a letter to nearly 4,700 hospitals requesting they begin reporting data on a daily basis to HHS relating to COVID-19 on their testing, bed capacity, and supplies in an effort to obtain vital information needed to help support financial support needed for FEMA and the CDC. You can find the letter [here](#).

APG Annual Conference Canceled

As the impact of COVID-19 continues to be felt across our 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.



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