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APG COVID-19 Urgent Alert

April 10, 2020

HHS Releases \$30B in Provider Relief and FCC Releases Public Notice on COVID-19 Telehealth Program:

HHS Releases \$30 Billion in Provider Relief

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has begun the process of delivering [\\$30 billion in relief funding to providers](#) to assist in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. All facilities and providers that received Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursements in 2019 are eligible for payment. The amount is part of the distribution of the \$100 billion provider relief fund provided for in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which is being used to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to coronavirus and to ensure testing and treatment for the uninsured. Some key components of the relief:

- Payment will be direct deposited and is not expected to be repaid
 - Providers who are reimbursed through checks will receive payment through checks
- Payments will be based providers' share of total 2019 Medicare FFS reimbursements

- Providers must sign an attestation on a portal (opening [here](#) the week of April 13, 2020) confirming receipt of the funds and agreeing to the terms and conditions of payment within 30 days of receipt
- Payments will be made according to providers' tax identification number (TIN)
- One condition of receiving funds is that providers must agree not to seek collection of out-of-pocket payments from a COVID-19 patient that are greater than what the patient would have otherwise been required to pay if the care had been provided by an in-network provider
- Practices will receive the amount through the group's central office based upon Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

To determine the estimated amount, providers may use the following formula:

- 2019 Medicare FFS payments divided by \$484,000,000,000 and then multiplied by \$30,000,000,000
 - For example: $\$100,000,000 / \$484,000,000,000 \times \$30,000,000,000 = 6,198,374.10$

HHS is partnering with UnitedHealth Group in delivering the \$30 billion as quickly as possible. For more details, visit hhs.gov/providerrelief

FCC Releases Public Notice on COVID-19 Telehealth Program

Late yesterday, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a [public notice](#) providing guidance on filing an application for COVID-19 Telehealth Program funding. This program includes \$200 million in funding to help ensure healthcare providers can deliver connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to COVID-19.

Major details on the program's application process include:

- Eligible providers who have purchased telecommunications and/or telemedicine equipment after March 13, 2020 can apply for funding support for those and any subsequent purchases
- For-profit and investor-owned hospitals are explicitly excluded as eligible providers

- To apply, facilities must confirm eligibility, obtain an FCC number, and register with the System for Award Management
- An online portal for completing and submitting requests for funding will be created soon and be released on <https://www.fcc.gov/keep-americansconnected>

Examples of services and devices provided by the FCC included:

- Telecommunications services and broadband connectivity services including voice services and internet connectivity
- Information services including patient monitoring platforms and services, patient reported outcomes platforms, store and forward services (asynchronous transfer of patient images and data for interpretation, and platforms and services to provide synchronous video consultation
- Internet connected devices such as tablets, smart phones for patient or healthcare providers

The Commission also announced details of a \$100 million Connected Care Pilot Project to increase broadband access to underserved and rural areas, specifically for low-income patients and veterans. Money will be spent over a three-year period to help offset telehealth services.

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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