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## APG COVID-19 Member Update

### April 13, 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.

### By The Numbers:

According to the [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#), there are **1,870,076 cases of coronavirus worldwide**. This includes **558,526 cases in the United States**, which leads all other countries in number of cases.

### Federal Update:

#### **Additional Details of \$30 Billion Funding for Providers Released**

Late last week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [began](#) 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. HHS recently provided additional details of terms and conditions for receiving funds, as well as other updates.

Updated [terms and conditions](#) for the funding that providers must attest to include:

- Recipients are prohibited from using "balance billing" for patients for COVID-19-related treatment due to patients having more limited choice because of the public health emergency, therefore having to seek treatment from out-of-network providers
- Recipients must certify that the payment will only be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, including healthcare-related expenses and lost revenues attributable to the virus
- Recipients must certify that they are:
  - Currently providing diagnoses, testing or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19
  - Permitted to participate in Medicare
  - Not currently excluded from participation in Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal healthcare programs
  - Do not currently have Medicare billing privileges revoked
- Recipients must certify that they will not use the payment to reimburse expenses or losses that have been reimbursed from other sources or that other sources are obligated to reimburse
- Recipients must submit reports to ensure compliance with conditions, as well as quarterly reporting requirements for recipients receiving more than \$150,000 total in funds under the CARES Act and any other COVID-19 appropriated funds
- Recipients must maintain records and cost documentation information to substantiate reimbursement of costs and fully cooperate in all audits
- General statutory provisions in [fiscal year 2020 Consolidated Appropriation](#) also apply to these payments
  - e.g. none of the funds may be used to pay the salary of an individual at a rate in excess of \$197,300

### **FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program Portal Opens Today**

Following last week's release of its [public notice](#) providing guidance on filing an

application for COVID-19 Telehealth Program funding, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s [application portal](#) for the program will open **today at 12:00 PM ET**. 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.

Questions about the application process can be emailed to [EmergencyTelehealthSupport@fcc.gov](mailto:EmergencyTelehealthSupport@fcc.gov). You can read APG's summary of the process [here](#).

## Educational Opportunities:

Next week, we will be hosting a webinar which will go into more detail on the rapidly changing face of telehealth. Entitled, "**An In-Depth Update on Changes in Telehealth Payment and Policy**" this webinar will take place on **Thursday, April 16 at 2:00 pm ET**. You can register [here](#).

APG is also producing a 90-minute webinar showcasing best practices among our organizational members who are handling Coronavirus (COVID-19) with resilience and solidarity. Our first **COVID-19 Case Studies in Excellence webinar** will be held on **Friday, April 17 at 3:00 pm ET**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Finally, we will host a **Deep Dive Webinar** on new CMS regulatory changes in Medicare Advantage and Medicare FFS, including important information on the new blanket waivers and special Stark waivers, on **Tuesday, April 21 at 2:00 pm ET**. You can register [here](#). More details to follow.

## APG Members in Action:

While our **Friday, April 17 COVID-19 Case Studies in Excellence [webinar](#)** focuses on specific APG members, we know all of you are finding innovative ways to continue to care for the patients and communities you serve. If you'd like to **share your COVID-19 best practices or story**, please email [David Allen](#), APG Director of Communications, with a brief description of what you're doing and we'll do our best to communicate your good work across APG membership.

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.

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

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