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APG COVID-19 Member Update

April 16, 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 **2,090,110 cases of coronavirus worldwide**. This includes **640,291 cases in the United States**, which leads all other countries in number of cases.

Federal Update:

APG Joins Coalition in Letter to National Governors Association Emphasizing the Role of States in Utilizing Digital Healthcare During COVID-19 Pandemic

Yesterday, APG joined with 42 other stakeholders in a [letter](#) to the National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) commenting on NGA's recommendations to governors on ways to improve

coverage and access to telehealth services. The letter stated support for the association's recognition of digital health technologies as important tools that may be utilized during the current public health emergency to improve patient outcomes while reducing costs.

Governors were also urged to continue to take the necessary steps to enable access to care, including waiving state-specific professional licensure requirements or granting temporary licenses to enable cross-state connected health services in states that have either declared a state of emergency or activated the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). NGA was also encouraged to establish and promote a uniform approach to the utilization of digital healthcare tools in order to address key issues such as payment and lessen the differences between states' requirements so that technology-driven solutions can be used by providers and patients as soon as possible.

Small Business Loan Program Funds Exhausted After Two Weeks

Today, it was [announced](#) that the \$349 billion cap for small business loans established in the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) has been reached, running out in a little less than two weeks. The loans were established as part of the Paycheck Protection Program, intended to extend forgivable loans to small businesses to cover payroll and other expenses amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress is continuing to work on another stimulus package in order to extend financial assistance and relief to all sectors of the economy as the public health emergency and social distancing surrounding COVID-19 continues. Additional monies for hospitals, physicians, and other healthcare organizations have been discussed and Trump administration officials have expressed openness to providing additional funding to assist these entities as soon as an agreement is reached.

APG continues to advocate before Congress and the Department for Health and Human Services (HHS) for payment relief for our members and others serving on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provider Relief Fund Attestation Portal Opened Today

This morning, HHS officially opened its [new portal](#) allowing providers to attest for their payments from the COVID-19 provider relief fund. The fund was established as part of the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) and provides \$100 billion to providers for lost revenue and other expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic based on 2019 Medicare fee-for-service reimbursements. The first \$30 billion disbursement was released last week. Providers must also agree to

terms and conditions of receiving the funds in addition to confirming receipt. They have 30 days to agree to the terms and conditions after which they must repay the money received within 30 days if not agreed to.

Educational Opportunities:

APG is 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 **tomorrow, 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.

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