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APG COVID-19 Member Update

April 23, 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 **2,671,024 cases of coronavirus worldwide**. This includes **847,985 cases in the United States**, which leads all other countries in number of cases.

Federal Update:

*****URGENT*** HHS Provides Additional Clarity on Practice Eligibility for Targeted Relief Funding**

Through our continued advocacy efforts on the issue, APG has learned additional details on how the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will allow physician practices to apply for funding from its targeted allocation of the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) for healthcare providers to

provide reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue from the pandemic. As a reminder from yesterday's urgent alert, HHS' targeted allocation of funds consists of the following:

Targeted Allocations

- \$10 billion will be distributed for targeted distribution to hospitals and providers in hot spots that have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Initially, the fund was for just hospitals but through APG advocacy efforts practices will now be able to access a portion of this fund
- Hospitals should apply for a portion of the funds by providing the following four pieces of information via the live [authentication portal](#) before 12:00 am PDT, Thursday, April 23 so that HHS can better informed where to target funds:
 - Tax Identification Number
 - National Provider Identifier
 - Total number of Intensive Care Unit beds as of April 10, 2020
 - Total number of admissions with a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 from January 1, 2020 to April 10, 2020
- Hospitals have already been contacted directly on how to submit this information to the portal

It has now been clarified that practices may submit information on the number of confirmed COVID-19 patients they have cared for via the live [authentication portal](#). Practices may go to the website <http://teletracking.protect.hhs.gov> in order to register for the portal and be validated for participation. Practices will need an NPI or CCN number to assist in the validation process. An extension for applying for allocated funds has also been made. **The new deadline to apply is 12:00 pm EDT, Saturday April 25.**

As you submit your information to HHS, please reach out to us with any questions or difficulties you may be experiencing during the submission process. APG will be continuing its advocacy efforts on provider relief and other pertinent issues for our members during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

APG Members in Action:

Every day, APG member organizations are finding innovative ways to continue to care for the patients and communities they 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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