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## APG COVID-19 Member Update

### April 27, 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.

### Federal Update:

#### **APG Urges Providers to [APPLY NOW](#) for General and Uninsured Allocation Funding**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) began distribution of a second round of funding from 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. **APG urges its members and other healthcare providers to apply now for general and uninsured allocation funding.**

Providers have two funding allocations for which they are eligible:

#### **General Allocations**

- \$20 billion distributed to facilities and providers impacted by COVID-19, based on eligible providers' 2018 net patient revenue from all payor sources.

- Hospitals will automatically be sent an advanced payment based off the revenue data they submit in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) cost reports
  - Hospitals will still need to submit their 2018 net patient revenue information through the [General Distribution Portal](#) so that it may be verified
- **Practices without the adequate cost report data for automatic advanced payment on file should go to the Provider Relief portal linked from [hhs.gov/providerrelief](https://hhs.gov/providerrelief) and follow the instructions provided on how to claim the second general distribution**
  - **Facilities or providers must have a Medicare billing TIN in order to qualify for this payment**
- Payments will go out weekly on a rolling basis
- Providers who receive funds must also sign an [attestation](#) confirming receipt of funds, agree to the terms and conditions of payment, and confirm the CMS cost report, if applicable

Providers may estimate their expected general revenue distribution by using the following formula:

- $(\text{Individual Provider 2018 Revenue} / \$2.5 \text{ Trillion}) \times \$50 \text{ Billion} = \text{Expected General Distribution}$

For additional information, recipients should visit <http://hhs.gov/providerrelief> or call the CARES Provider Relief line at (866) 569-3522.

### **Allocations for the Uninsured**

The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) will officially launch registration for the [COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal](#) today for providers to request claims reimbursement for COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured COVID-19 patients on or after February 4, 2020. In order to receive funds, providers must:

- Enroll as a provider participant (**starting today**, [here](#))
- Check patient eligibility and benefits
- Submit patient information
- Submit claims
- Receive payment via direct deposit

Providers may begin submitting claims in May 6, 2020. **Due to the limitation on these funds, we would recommend that providers submit ASAP.**

### **CMS Announces End to Its Advanced Payment Program, Reevaluation of Accelerated Payments**

CMS [announced](#) yesterday that it will be suspending its Advanced Payment Program to Part B suppliers effective immediately while also reevaluating all pending and new applications under its accelerated payment program. APG previously sent a [letter](#) to Congress on the accelerated payment program requesting changes to the program's prepayment recoupment process and parity for the repayment deadline between hospitals and physician practices.

The declaration was extended this weekend by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar for another 90 days as it was set to expire yesterday. The extension will allow providers and organizations to continue to utilize the 1135 waivers and other policies that have been implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the expansion of telehealth services.

## **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.

***Valinda Rutledge***  
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