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May 11, 2020

Welcome to America's Physician Groups' "Healthcare on the Hill," where you can get the latest on healthcare happenings in our nation's capital--and with a special focus on the value-based care movement.

As our nation--and the world--continues to face the many challenge presented by COVID-19, we are working to ensure you have the very latest information on the virus and our rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

*Think someone else may enjoy "Healthcare on the Hill?" **Forward this email and have them click [here](#) to be added to our subscription list.** And remember, you can always visit our [website](#) for more news and resources.*

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

APG Leads Coalition Letter to CMS on Risk Adjusted Payment for Audio-Only Telehealth Services

Last week, APG sent a [letter](#) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in conjunction with seven other healthcare organizations advocating that the agency provide additional flexibility so that diagnoses from audio-only telehealth services be counted for

the purpose of risk adjusted payment. The letter argued that as some practices transition up to 70 percent of care into telehealth, risk adjusting for these services gains greater importance in order to avoid any barriers that discourage patient participation in telehealth or put organizations in greater financial peril will prevent patients from receiving necessary care. APG continues to work diligently to address this issue before CMS and will continue to provide updates on the progress made during the course of the current pandemic.

HHS Extends Deadline for Attestation and Acceptance of Terms and Conditions for Provider Relief Fund Payments

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced an extension of the deadline for healthcare providers to [attest](#) to receipt of payment and accept [Terms and Conditions](#) from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF). The extension increases the amount of time given to providers from 30 days to 45 days from the date they receive payment. The payments are part of the distribution of the now \$175 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 COVID-19 and to ensure that both testing and treatment are available for the uninsured.

APG Board of Directors Member Mark Mantei Spotlighted on CMS COVID-19 Physician Series

Vancouver Clinic CEO and APG board member Mark Mantei was spotlighted last week as part of the CMS *Lessons from the Front Lines* series on the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the series is to highlight the experiences, ideas, strategies, and insights of physicians and other clinicians related to their COVID-19 response. Mr. Mantei was able to share the Vancouver Clinic's experiences in caring for patients during the ongoing public health emergency and some of the best practices that physicians and their organizations can use in order to offer quality care and help themselves financially during the pandemic.

APG and CareJourney Deep Dive on the Future of APMs

[Register today](#) for a **Deep Dive Webinar** hosted by [APG](#) and [CareJourney](#) on Thursday, May 21 at 2pm ET. We have secured a group of **industry experts** who will provide you with unique insights into what risk-based care will look like as the fight against COVID-19 continues and what factors are they considering as they think about their 2021 risk-based strategy.

Here are a few of the topics our group of panelists will discuss:

- *What is the future state of risk-based models in a post-COVID-19 world?*

- *What is the continued value offered by staying in risk-based models in the face of COVID-19?*
- *What factors should we consider when determining how to move forward in risk-based care?*

Our expert panelists include:

- **Marion Couch, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of the Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**
- **Steve Neorr**, Chief Administrative Officer, Triad HealthCare Network
- **Melanie Matthews**, CEO, Physicians of Southwest Washington
- **Pamela Pelizzari**, Principal and Healthcare Consultant, Milliman

APG will also review the [interim final rule](#) released on April 30 which includes policies aimed at providing financial relief and stability for accountable care organizations (ACOs).



This message was sent to dallen@apg.org from:

Valinda Rutledge | America's Physician Groups | 1501 M Street, NW | Washington, DC 20005

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