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May 18, 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

House Passed the HEROES Act

Late last week, the House of Representatives passed [H.R. 6800, or the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions \(HEROES Act\)](#). This \$3 trillion funding package includes nearly \$1 trillion for state and local governments, paid leave for workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, and expanded mail-in voting

programs. The bill's healthcare-focused provisions would provide \$175 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) and \$100 billion to help hospitals and healthcare providers to cover lost revenue and coronavirus-related costs. Another \$75 billion would be directed to a national system to detect and contain the coronavirus including expanded testing, contact tracing, surveillance, mitigation, and containment. In addition, providers would be eligible to receive 60 percent of lost revenues compared to last year's totals and full reimbursement for pandemic-related costs such as temporary construction, equipment, tests, training, and workforce retention.

The bill now moves to the Senate where, according to a *Business Insider* [article](#), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) says it has "no chance of becoming law."

You can view the HEROES Act [here](#).

APG, Others Send Letter to CMS Seeking Relief for ACOs During COVID-19

America's Physician Groups (APG), along with eight other healthcare organizations, sent a letter to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma providing recommendations in response to policy and regulatory revisions related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The recommendations in the letter focus on ensuring that the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) remains sustainable for Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and physician groups who are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19.

"Every day, ACOs and physician groups are among the millions of healthcare 'heroes' providing care to the communities they serve," said Don Crane, APG President and CEO. "We urge CMS to provide them with the resources they need to continue that care."

You can view the letter [here](#).

APG Sends Letters in Support of New Senate Legislation

America's Physician Groups (APG) submitted letters to Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Michael Bennet (D-CO), as well as five additional Senate offices in support of their recently introduced Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments Improvement Act. This legislation provides physician groups on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic with the financial resources they need to continue providing care to the communities they serve.

The legislation includes several key components to help physician group practices during the current public health emergency. Key components includes authorizing CMS to offer partial forgiveness for the loans provided by the accelerated and advance payment

programs, lowering the amount withheld from Medicare service claims from 100 percent to a much more manageable 25 percent, and to lower the applicable interest rate of repayment to 2 percent. You can view the letter [here](#).

CMMI Director Brad Smith Joins APG and CareJourney's Deep Dive Webinar on the Future of APMs

We are pleased to announce that **Brad Smith, Deputy Administrator and Director for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)** will join [America's Physician Groups](#) and [CareJourney](#)'s Deep Dive webinar on the **Future of APMs** on **Thursday, May 21 at 2:00 pm ET**. You can register [here](#).

During the webinar, **Valinda Rutledge, Senior Vice President of Federal Affairs at APG** will be joined by **Aneesh Chopra, President of CareJourney** and 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:

- **Brad Smith**, Deputy Administrator and Director for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)
- **Marion Couch**, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of the Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- **Steve Neorr**, Chief Administrative Officer, Triad HealthCare Network
- **Melanie Matthews**, CEO, Physicians of Southwest Washington
- **Pamela Pelizzari**, Principal and Healthcare Consultant, Milliman

Valinda Rutledge 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).

[SPACE IS LIMITED. CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)



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