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**June 1, 2020**

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*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.*

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

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**APG Sends Letter Advocating for Risk Adjusted Payment for Audio-Only Telehealth Services In Medicare Advantage**

Last week, APG sent a [letter](#) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) advocating for the extension of eligibility for risk adjustment payment for Medicare

Advantage to audio-only telehealth services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The letter recommends that CMS counts diagnoses obtained from audio-only telehealth services for MA risk adjustment and offers suggestions on the guardrails offered by CMS, analyzing the obstacles they present for physicians in providing care. CMS has issued changes allowing payment for telehealth services during the current public health emergency if physicians used both audio and video technology.

APG has highlighted the discrepancies in payment for audio-only telehealth visits compared to audio and visual visits and the fact that diagnoses made during an audio-only visit cannot be used for risk adjustment purposes. APG is continuing to advocate on this issue and the extension of adequate payment for audio-only telehealth services.

### **APG Files Comments in Response to CMS's Interim Final Rule**

Today, APG filed [comments](#) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the agency's April interim final rule. The rule offered regulations addressing a variety of issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. APG outlined a host of recommendations in response to the rule including:

- Expansion of eligible providers for reimbursement for telehealth
- Reimbursement for physicians for audio-only telehealth services for Medicare Advantage Risk Adjustment
- Lifting restrictions on e-health and virtual check-ins requiring providers to track possible follow-up visits and reconcile any follow-up interactions
- Clarity on the types of services that may be available to patients on homebound status during the public health emergency
- Incentives to keep healthcare organizations enrolled in alternative payment models (APM)
- Pay-for-reporting for all quality measures in 2020 and 2021

### **Deadline for Providers to Receive Additional Provider Relief Fund Payment**

Providers have until Wednesday, June 3 to submit their revenue information through the [General Distribution Portal](#) in order to receive an additional payment from the Provider Relief Fund's \$50 billion General Distribution. However, HHS has extended the deadline to accept the terms and conditions for 90 days from receipt of payment.

Providers who received an automatic payment prior to April 24 must provide the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with an accounting of their annual revenues by submitting tax forms or financial statements, in addition to accepting terms

and conditions, if they wish to keep their funds. The submission of tax forms or financial statements to the portal will serve as an application for additional funding for providers who have not already received a payment.

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

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