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**August 17, 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.*

*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 Joins Coalition Advocating for Comprehensive Health Coverage in COVID-19 Legislation**

APG, along with 26 other healthcare organizations, wrote a [letter](#) to Congress advocating for the prioritization of comprehensive health coverage as lawmakers work on crafting another COVID-19 legislative package. As the number of uninsured people rise, ensuring that they are able to receive care during the pandemic to help prevent the spread of

COVID-19 because all the more important. APG asked Congress to safeguard comprehensive health coverage to strengthen everyone's ability to stay healthy, maintain their financial security, and put the country on the path toward economic recovery.

### **APG Leads Coalition Letter Urging Provider Relief Funding for Value-Based Providers**

Last week, APG took the lead in drafting correspondence to Congress advocating for additional provider relief funds for healthcare providers participating in value-based models. The [letter](#), which included four other healthcare organizations, highlighted the need for direct support for those operating under value-based payment models as they power the continued shift away from the fee-for-service payment model toward value-based, high quality care while simultaneously combating the COVID-19 pandemic. As services such as telehealth, data sharing technologies, and enhanced care collaboration and coordination take on more importance during the pandemic, additional support for providers that are taking responsibility in improving the health of the patients and communities they serve by holding themselves accountable for both cost and quality through APMs becomes more imperative and worthy of Congressional action.

### **HHS Announces that Certain Medicare Providers Can Apply for Additional PRF**

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) that certain Medicare providers would have an additional opportunity to apply for provider relief funds. Providers who may now be eligible to apply for Phase 2 General Distribution funding include:

- Providers who were ineligible for the Phase 1 General Distribution due to:
  - A change in ownership in calendar year 2019 or 2020 under Medicare Part A
  - Lack of Medicare Fee-For-Service revenue in 2019
- Providers who received a payment under Phase 1 General Distribution but:
  - Missed the June 3 deadline to submit revenue information
  - Did not receive Phase 1 General Distribution payments totaling approximately two percent of their annual patient revenue
- Providers who previously received General Distribution payment(s), but rejected and returned the funds and are now interested in reapplying

Eligible providers will only receive funding of up to two percent of their reported total revenue from patient care and may now submit their applications funds by **August 28, 2020**. All payment recipients must accept HHS's terms and conditions and may be subject

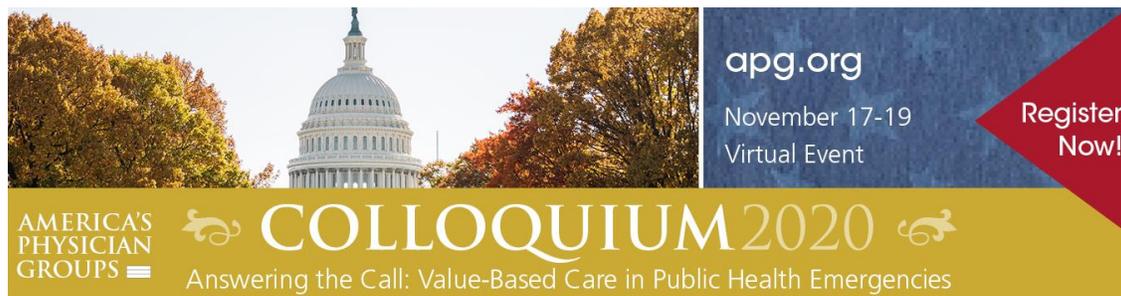
to auditing to ensure the data provided to HHS for payment calculation are accurate. Detailed reporting requirements for these terms and conditions are expected to be released this week.

### **The Administration Announces Transform Rural Health Initiative**

Last week, the Trump Administration announced [The Community Health Access and Rural Transformation \(CHART\) Model](#), an initiative to further enhance up to 15 rural communities health care systems through new funding for innovations to increase access to care, improve quality, and lower cost for patients. The CHART model has two options for participating. First, the Community Transformation Track will provide \$75m for up-front funding in rural communities that will help implement care deliver reform and build sustainable health care systems. CMS will select up to 15 rural communities to participate in this track with the winners being announced in early 2021. The second track is the ACO Transformation Track. This Track will provide upfront investment to improve outcomes and quality for rural beneficiaries. Providers participating in this Track will enter into two-sided risk arrangements as part of the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) and may use all waivers available. CMS will release a Request for Applications in the Spring 2021 and will select up to 20 rural ACOs to participate in this track.

### **Register Today for APG's Virtual Colloquium 2020**

[Register today](#) for APG's Virtual Colloquium 2020 **"Answering the Call: Value-Based Care in Public Health Emergencies"** on November 17-19. You will not want to miss these three days of fantastic APG conference content that you can enjoy from the comfort of your home or office. [Reserve your space today.](#)



The banner features a photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., framed by trees with autumn foliage. On the right side, there is a blue and red graphic with the text 'apg.org', 'November 17-19 Virtual Event', and 'Register Now!'. Below the photograph, a yellow bar contains the text 'AMERICA'S PHYSICIAN GROUPS' with a logo, 'COLLOQUIUM 2020' in large letters, and 'Answering the Call: Value-Based Care in Public Health Emergencies'.



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This message was sent to [srobinette@apg.org](mailto:srobinette@apg.org) from:

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

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