



September 1, 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.*

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CMS Issues Proposed Rule to Create Innovative Technology for Medicare Beneficiaries

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the "Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technology" (MCIT) proposed rule that would increase innovative technology for Medicare beneficiaries and improve access to the latest medical technology, especially for seniors. The proposed rule would reduce the lag time for beneficiaries and innovators by creating a new and faster Medicare coverage process that the FDA may consider "breakthrough" technologies. Under the proposed rule, Medicare would provide national coverage with FDA approval for four years that is expected to create incentive manufactures to develop innovative technologies. HHS Secretary stated, "this proposal would give Medicare beneficiaries faster access to the latest lifesaving technologies and

provide more support for breakthrough innovations by finally delivering Medicare reimbursement at the same time as FDA approval.” You can find the fact sheet [here](#).

FDA and CDC Coordinate to Monitor COVID-19 Vaccine

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that they would work together to increase safety monitoring for any COVID-19 vaccine that comes to the market. CDC Director Robert Redfield stated that everyone who gets a vaccine will be tracked for any long-term side effects, and if the data shows long-term side effects, the vaccine will be pulled from the market. Redfield added that CDC’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan assumes that the vaccine will be cleared by the FDA under the Emergency Use Authorization pathway and whether the entities in charge of the independent review of the clinical trial data will give vaccine producers permission to continue their studies. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Paul Mango, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, emphasized that the distribution process is a “very, very complex logistical task.”

CMS Extends for One-Year Reforms to the Physician Self-Referral Rule

Last week, CMS announced that the agency will push reforms for finalizing reforms to the physician self-referral rule and anti-kickback statute by one-year to August 2021. The new rule intends to make new, permanent exceptions to the Stark Law for value-based pay arrangements within and outside of Medicare.

Payment Increases for Hospitals with Medicare Beneficiaries with COVID-19

CMS announced that starting on September 1, hospitals with Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with COVID-19 would see a 20 percent increase in their payment. HHS directed the pay hike through a provision in the CARES Act. To receive the increase in payment, hospitals are required to have a positive lab test in the patient’s medical record. The test must be performed within 14 days of hospital admission (MLN Matters Number: SE20015).

Supreme Court to Revisit the ACA

Just a week after the 2020 presidential election, the Supreme Court will hear the case again to overturn the affordable care act (ACA) on November 10, one week after the Presidential election. [California v. Texas](#) was brought by several Republican state attorneys general who argue that the individual mandate provision was rendered unconstitutional when its penalty was set to \$0 under President Donald Trump’s 2017 tax overhaul. They argue that, as a result of the Court’s previous ruling that the individual mandate is an essential underpinning of the law due to Congress’ power to tax, without it the ACA in its entirety must also be scrapped. President Trump has stated that he will protect the coverage for preexisting conditions no matter what happens with the case. A decision on the case is expected by June 2021.

APG Colloquium 2020 – Answering the Call: Value-Based Care in Public Health

Emergencies

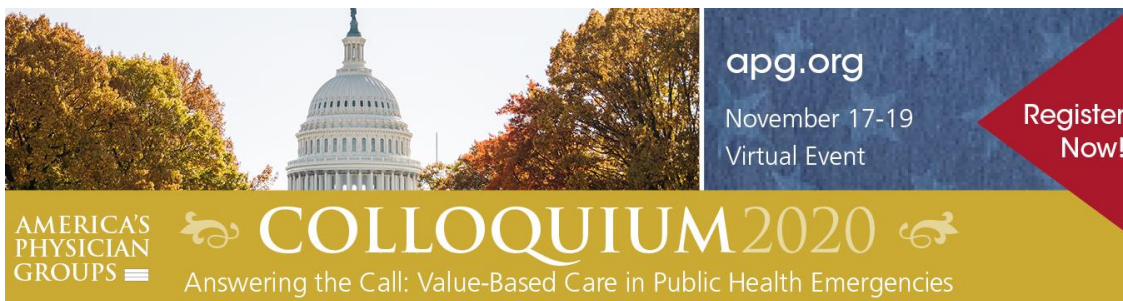
November 17-19, is only a few months away. This **virtual** event is the leading conference for healthcare executives, CEOs, physicians and other providers, and anyone else interested in value-based care, alternative payment models, and improving patient care.

Here are five reasons you should register today to attend this can't-miss conference:

1. Hear firsthand from top health policy leaders about the state of healthcare delivery and what may be ahead after the November elections.
2. Understand how COVID-19 is impacting policy and payment issues, telehealth practices, and patient care, both in the short-term and long-term.
3. Gain the knowledge and tools to take your organization to the next level.
4. Learn about the newest products and services to support you and your organization.
5. Listen, learn, and network from the comfort, convenience, and safety of your home or office.

We are working hard to bring you the very best speakers and engaging sessions, so stay tuned for up-to-date alerts with more details in the coming weeks.

Early bird registration is open, so [register today](#) and save \$125. Groups that register 10+ people save an extra \$50 per person!



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November 17-19
Virtual Event
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AMERICA'S PHYSICIAN GROUPS
COLLOQUIUM 2020
Answering the Call: Value-Based Care in Public Health Emergencies



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