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October 20, 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 challenges 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

CMS Adds New Telehealth Services to Medicare List

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) expanded the [list of telehealth services](#) that Medicare Fee-for-Service will pay for during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) using a new expedited process for the first time. CMS is also providing additional support to state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their efforts to expand access to telehealth.

The agency added 11 new services to the Medicare telehealth services list and will begin

paying eligible providers who furnish the services effective immediately and for the duration of the PHE. Some of the new telehealth services include:

- Neurostimulator analysis and programming services
- Cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services

Since the beginning of the PHE, CMS added over 135 services to the Medicare telehealth services list including, emergency department visits, initial inpatient and nursing facility visits, and discharge day management services. The new additions bring the total that Medicare will pay to 144 services.

Administration Expresses Concerns over CMMI Payment Models

In recent days, reports out of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid innovation (CMMI) indicate that its own leadership CMMI Director Brad Smith and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma are concerned with several payment models potentially losing millions of dollars if “course correction” is not taken to change its policies. The ongoing bundled payment demonstration program was on course to lose over \$2 billion before changes aimed at allowing the model to break even were made in the middle of the model that some have worried could cause providers to drop out of the demonstration. That experience also spurred the agency to pivot more quickly than planned toward more mandatory models, according to Director Smith. Additionally the center has recognized issues with financial benchmarks with work being done to ensure better accuracy and predictability.

AHA and HHS Argue Hospital Transparency Rule

Last week, the U.S. Court of Appeals heard argument from the American Hospital Association and the Department of Health and Human Services on the Trump Administration’s hospital price transparency rule that would require hospitals to make public their standard list of all charges beginning in January 2021. Earlier this year, the U.S. Appeals Court struck down AHA’s argument that the rules exceeded HHS’ authority. We will keep you updated on further developments.

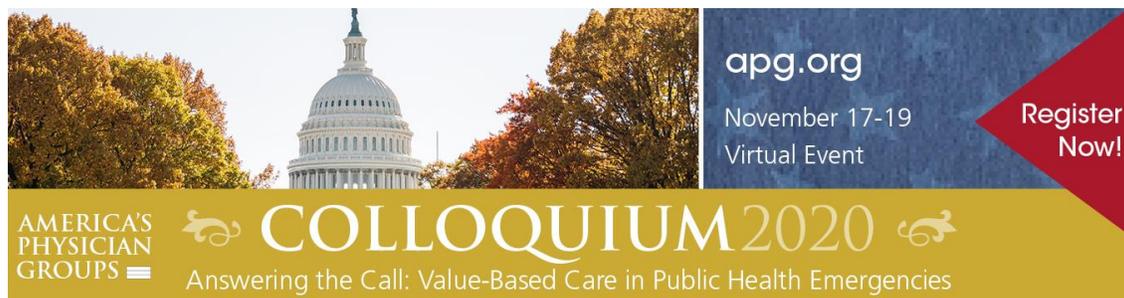
APG Colloquium 2020: Answering the Call: Value-Based Care in Public Health Emergencies

Have you registered for the virtual [APG Colloquium 2020 yet?](#)

We are pleased to announce that Vivian S. Lee, MD, PhD, is the newest keynote speaker for “**Lessons from the Long Fix: COVID-19 and Beyond**” at the [APG Colloquium 2020](#), November 17-19.

The author of *The Long Fix: Solving America's Health Care Crisis with Strategies that Work for Everyone*, Dr. Lee is the President of Health Platforms at Verily Life Sciences and Senior Lecturer at Harvard Medical School. Her plan for reform calls on employers and other payers, patients, clinicians, and policy makers to reinvent health care that "creates a less costly, more efficient, and healthier system for all."

Dr. Lee joins a phenomenal lineup of Colloquium speakers including **Congresswoman Donna Shalala, Dr. Anand Shah, Andy Slavitt, Dr. Mark McClellan, Elizabeth Mitchell, Dr. Ashish Jha, Dr. Kavita Patel, and many more.**



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November 17-19
Virtual Event
Register Now!

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COLLOQUIUM 2020
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Valinda Rutledge | America's Physician Groups | 1501 M Street, NW | Washington, DC 20005

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