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Dear reader: Please note that beginning next week, the Planning and Preparedness newsletter will be sent on Mondays and Wednesdays, unless there is urgent news or information that warrants sending immediately. We thank you for reading and suggest you follow the Massachusetts Medical Society on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) and check our dedicated [COVID-19 resource page](#) frequently.

Practice Management

Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

Congress passed a \$484 billion relief bill this week. The legislation adds approximately \$321 billion for the Small Business Administration [Paycheck Protection Program](#) (PPP) that ran out of funding last week (including \$60 billion to be set aside for small, midsize, and community lenders), as well as \$50 billion for the [Disaster Loans Program](#) and \$10 billion for [Emergency EIDL Grants](#). The SBA hasn't announced when the programs will be back up and running, but you can begin identifying your lender and preparing your applications now—we expect these funds to run out quickly.

In addition, the bill provides \$75 billion in [HHS Provider and Hospital funds](#) to address coronavirus expenses and lost revenue and \$25 billion to facilitate and expand COVID-19 testing—with state, local, territorial, and tribal governments receiving up to \$11 billion in funds for testing. The American Medical Association has a [detailed overview of the legislation](#). Some programs receiving funds in this legislation may be revised to better

target facilities and physician practices most in need, but we do not yet have details on how the new money will be distributed. We continue to advocate to our congressional delegation for support for physician practices, now focusing on the next COVID-19 stimulus package that is expected in May.

CARES Act Provider Relief Fund update

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a \$20 billion second wave of funding for providers from the \$100 billion CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. These payments do not need to be repaid. Funding is proportional to the provider's share of 2018 net patient revenue and will be used to support health care-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19.

The new relief payments supplement the initial \$30 billion funding round, which was circulated earlier this month. HHS distributed the earlier funds based on providers' Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) revenue in 2019. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Claims reimbursement for testing and treatment to providers and facilities serving the uninsured

As part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will provide claims reimbursement to health care providers near Medicare rates for the testing and treatment of uninsured patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Key considerations when designing a telehealth workflow

Although each practice or organization's workflow may look different, there are key questions and criteria to keep in mind when building a telehealth-inclusive workflow. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Massachusetts health plans coverage policies

The Massachusetts Medical Society is working closely with health plan leadership, state officials, and partners within the health care system to address local needs resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. [Here is a summary](#) of Massachusetts health plan coverage policies and their respective community support efforts, as provided to America's Health Insurance Plans Association.

For all your health plan updates, please contact us at pprc@mms.org.

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