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June 8, 2020

The MMS will continue to monitor developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the response by state and federal agencies. For current information, including updates from the NEJM, visit the dedicated page on the MMS website: massmed.org/covid-19.

Government Guidelines

DPH releases Phase 2 reopening guidance for health care providers

Effective June 8, 2020, health care providers who attest to meeting specific criteria and public health and safety standards outlined in [DPH Phase 2 reopening guidance for health care providers in non-acute care settings](#) may incrementally resume non-essential elective invasive procedures and services. Health care providers must complete [the attestation](#) prior to performing Phase 2 services and must retain the attestation for inspection upon request from DPH. DPH also issued updated Phase 2 [Guidance on Non-Essential Elective Procedures](#).

Practice Management

Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020

The [Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act \(PPPFA or the “Act”\)](#), was signed into law on June 5, and modifies provisions related to loan forgiveness under the Paycheck Protection Program, allowing recipients to defer their payroll taxes.

- The Act reduces the percentage of loan proceeds that must be spent on payroll costs from 75 percent to 60 percent, enabling businesses to spend more on overhead and fixed expenses such as rent and utilities.
- The PPPFA provides wage and employment safe level harbors, which permitted employers to avoid a reduction in forgiveness amounts due to a significant decrease in employment and/or wage levels between February 15 and April 26, 2020, as long as the number of employees and wage levels are restored by June 30, 2020. The PPPFA extends this safe harbor restoration deadline from June 30 to December 31, 2020.
- The PPPFA allows employers that receive PPP loan forgiveness to continue deferring payment of the employer share of the Social Security tax under CARES Act (Section 2302) through December 31, 2020
- The PPPFA has extended the repayment period to five years for those loans that are issued after the date of the PPPFA. Existing PPP loans can be extended up to five years if the lender and the borrower agree. In addition, the first payment would be deferred until such time that the forgiveness is granted by the SBA and remitted to the borrower's lender.
- The PPPFA also clarifies that loan forgiveness will not be reduced based on an inability to rehire employees if the employer can document: (1) written offers to rehire individuals who were employees of the organization on February 15, 2020; or (2) an inability to hire similarly qualified employees for unfilled positions by December 31, 2020.
- We will continue to monitor [The Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) guidance and revisions to its existing terms.

CARES Act Provider Relief Fund update

The deadline for providers to submit revenue information for an additional General Distribution payment from the Provider Relief Fund was June 3, 2020. Only providers with complete submissions received prior to the June 3 deadline will be considered for an

additional General Distribution payout. Providers who did not submit this revenue submission by the deadline may qualify for future provider relief funding. To learn more:

- Portal CARES Act Provider Relief Fund for Providers: [Attestation, Terms and Conditions, and Distribution](#).
 - CARES Act Provider Relief Fund General Information: [\\$50 Billion General Distribution, Targeted, Allocations, Timeline, Eligibility & Methodology, and Patient Protections](#).
 - CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Data: [General Distribution, Targeted Distributions, and Data Charts](#).
 - CARES Act Provider Relief Fund FAQs: [Provider Relief Fund General Information, General Distribution, and Targeted Distribution](#).
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Payer updates

[These resources](#) will help you quickly determine the effective dates for health plan (including Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna, and others) temporary benefits, program and procedure changes related to COVID-19, and billing guidelines for services such as COVID-19 testing, treatment, and telehealth. Please note: All dates are subject to change. Please check with the health plan regularly. Of note: MMS is advocating for administrative deadline extensions. More details to follow.

CMS COVID-19 stakeholder engagement calls and office hours

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hosts recurring stakeholder engagement sessions to share information related to COVID-19. These sessions are open to members of the health care community and are intended to provide updates, share best practices among peers, and offer attendees an opportunity to ask questions of CMS and other subject matter experts. Office hour calls are an opportunity for hospitals, health systems, and providers to ask questions of agency officials regarding CMS's temporary actions that empower local hospitals and health care systems to:

- Increase hospital capacity
- Rapidly expand the health care workforce
- Put patients over paperwork
- Further promote telehealth in Medicare

This week's office hours:

- Tuesday, June 9, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. EDT
- Toll free attendee dial-in: 833-614-0820
- Access passcode: 4892554

Telehealth services in the age of COVID-19 for Part B providers webinar (tomorrow)

This webinar will review the latest updates regarding COVID-19, how they apply to Medicare Part B, and the temporary changes for telehealth and telemedicine services. Participants may ask questions following the presentation.

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT

Register: [Click here.](#)

COVID-19 Medicare Part B advanced payment, repayment and recoupment process webinar

If you requested and received accelerated or advanced payments from Medicare due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, this learning session is for you. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) expanded the accelerated and advance payment program for financial hardship relief during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Accelerated or advanced payments need to be repaid to the Medicare Trust Fund. During this webinar, CMS will review the repayment process.

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EDT
Register: [Click here.](#)

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EDT
Register: [Click here.](#)

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