

COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ April 21, 2020



## Reimbursement & Policy

### ASPR grants for hospitals

IHA has received a Notice of Award from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). HHS has allocated \$50 million to 53 state hospital associations. Based on the formula used, IHA will receive approximately \$313,000 from ASPR to distribute to our member hospitals to be used for COVID-19 preparedness and responses activities. Funds can be used for:

1. training staff to implement COVID-19 preparedness plans;
2. procuring supplies and equipment;
3. training healthcare providers in the areas of infection control and triage;
4. retrofitting separate areas to screen and treat large numbers of persons;
5. implementing expanded telemedicine/telehealth capabilities; and
6. increasing patient beds to provide surge capacity using temporary structures.

IHA expects funds to be available by the end of this week, at which time the funds will be immediately dispersed to hospitals along with counter-signed sub-recipient agreements, notices of subaward, and a hospital step-by-step guide. For questions regarding the ASPR funding, contact [Larry Tisdale](#).

### Additional hospital relief passes first hurdle

More financial relief from Washington, DC appears to be on the horizon for hospitals hit hard by the coronavirus. While the Department of Health and Human Services is still determining how to distribute the remaining \$70 billion for healthcare providers from the CARES Act, the United States Senate today passed "Phase 3.5" of COVID-19 stimulus and relief. The bill still needs approval of the House of Representatives and the President's signature. If approved, the [bill will provide another \\$75 billion for hospitals](#) and healthcare providers and replenish the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program Fund.

### Stark Laws waiver guidance

Today, CMS issued [explanatory guidance](#) related to the March 30, 2020 Blanket Waivers of Section 1877(g) of the Social Security Act. Section 1877 of the Social Security Act is one of a number of sections that is collectively referred to as the "Stark Laws". If the current COVID-19 national emergency has made it necessary for your hospital to amend compensation arrangements with physicians, the information linked above may be of great value to you.

## Quality & Patient Safety

### NIH releases first treatment guidelines

Today, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [announced the first treatment guidelines](#) for COVID-19 patients intended for healthcare providers.

The guidelines were developed by a panel of U.S. physicians, statisticians, and other experts and are intended for healthcare providers. The information is based on published and preliminary data and the clinical expertise of the panelists, many of whom are frontline clinicians caring for patients during the rapidly evolving pandemic.

The guidelines describe the evaluation and stratification of patients based on their risk of infection and severity of illness. Also included is a description of considerations for clinicians caring for the most critically ill hospitalized patients, which includes infection control procedures, ventilatory support, and drug therapy.

### Resources for managing COVID-19 in rural communities

In a recent webinar, AHA hosted two rural hospital leaders who discussed how they prepared for a surge of COVID-19 patients. For a replay, click [here](#).

Two additional resources for rural hospitals were recently launched:

- AHA's [Rural Hospital Interventions for Coronavirus](#) (COVID-19) website, that includes case studies.
- The Rural Health Information Hub's [Rural COVID-19 Innovations resource page](#) provides a collection of best practices and lessons learned.

## Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

### This week's CMS hospital and provider COVID-19 calls

CMS will host a call for hospitals, health systems and providers to answer questions on temporary actions the agency has taken to increase hospital capacity; expand the health care workforce; and further promote telehealth.

**Thursday, April 23 ~ 3p-4p MT / 2p-3p PT**  
**Dial-in: 833-614-0820 / Passcode: 5899488**

[Register](#)

On Friday, April 24 CMS and the FDA will host a call to share clinical best practices, strategies, and insights related to COVID-19.

**Friday, April 24 Call from 12:30-2 p.m. ET**  
**Dial-in: 877-251-0301 / Passcode: 5096006**

[Register](#)

[Click to get our daily COVID-19 Updates](#)

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

615 N. 7th St.  
Boise, ID | 83701 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma