Reimbursement & Policy

HHS sends out new data request

HHS sent a request to hospital associations, like IHA, to test for SARS-CoV-2, and receive federal funding for the tests done. This is a new request given the ongoing COVID-19 de-escalation plan. The data is needed to support new HHS’s distribution of its supply of testing, a drug that has been tested for emergency use in treating COVID-19 patients in early clinical trials. Hospitals are asked to report on currently hospitalized COVID-19 patients as of Sunday, May 10, 2020. The information is to be updated weekly through the Hospital Readiness portal.

Additional details and a link about hospital submissions later this week. For data definitions, screen shots and data to help, please review this link here from the site.

Additional grant funding for hospitals coming soon

HHS will provide additional details as soon as they are available. In late April HHS distributed a round of ASPR funds to 36 Idaho hospitals that agreed to accept the assistance to recover some of the expenses associated with COVID-19.

Resources & Equipment

Additional CMS Waivers for Hospitals and Other Facilities

CMS released a new round of Blanket Waivers today that go beyond the existing state waiver authority that expired on April 15. The new waivers: • Expand hospital ability to offer long-term care services (‘swing beds’). • Waive patient volume requirements, moral, and clear requirements for Federal Community Hospitals. • Waive volunteer eligibility requirements for Workforce/Operational, Small Rural Hospitals (DRGs), and • Update specific life safety code requirements for hospitals, hospice, and long-term care facilities.

Quality & Patient Safety

Study evaluates Abbott testing and SARS-CoV-2 in Boise

A team from IHA evaluated the Abbott Architect SARS-CoV-2 IgG Assay and found it performed well in terms of sensitivity and specificity in this study. It is unclear what the prevalence of antibody is in individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2. The Abbott serology test performed very well in terms of sensitivity and specificity in this study.

Last week, CMS posted a video resource covering the expanded Medicare telehealth coverage. This video includes information about audio-only telehealth services, telehealth services that hospitals and other care facilities.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Video – Medicare telehealth coverage

See video that explains Medicare telehealth coverage.

Click to go to our daily COVID-19 Updates