Reimbursement & Policy

Reimbursement Policy: Free Money With Strings Attached

IHA has partnered with OpenSky, StandTo, and three hospital associations to present a webinar titled ‘Free Money With Strings Attached’ featuring Dr. Robert Herman from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Dr. Herman provided an overview of new and existing federal COVID-19 funding, as well as updates to the CMS Final Rule published in January 2021. Some key takeaways include:

- The CMS Final Rule includes several changes to the Temporary Increasing Payment Rates for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Final Rule, effective through December 31, 2022, increases the CAH payment rate by 5% for 2021.
- Additional updates to the rule include changes to the rural definition, payment rate adjustment, and the choice of benchmark.

The webinar provides an overview of the new CMS Final Rule and how it impacts CAHs across the state.

Quality & Patient Safety

Reimbursement Policy: CAH Quality and Infection Control forum

The product of weeks of work by the Testing Task Force, the COVID-19 Testing Plan for Idaho was released today. Governor Little shared an expansive plan to address testing across the state including in rural communities. The guidance covers:

- Collaboration with state and local health officials to implement plans that are safe and effective.
- Ensuring the health and safety of these workers is key to Idaho’s ability to manage and reopen the state.
- Considering the unique needs of each community.
- Proper uses of funding and reporting.
- Access to the information has been made available.

The webinar, ‘Preventing Infections That Transmit in Hospitals’ included discussions on building a surveillance system, maintaining healthy environments, and preparing for when someone gets sick.

The webinar is available on the Idaho Hospital Association’s website. The complete webinar can be accessed via Dropbox. For more information, please contact IHA’s Kate Bennett at kate.bennett@ihafoundation.org.