

COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ June 10, 2020



Reimbursement & Policy

Prescription sample guidance

The FDA has [issued guidance](#) on the delivery of prescription drug samples to patients' homes if requested by their clinician. The new policy, which is temporary, addresses questions the FDA has received in respect to the Prescription Drug Marketing Act of 1987 (PDMA). During this public health emergency, the FDA does not intend to object to the delivery of prescription drug samples. The updated guidance describes their current policy for delivering samples to patients as well as to providers who may be providing telemedicine services from a home office.

Resources & Equipment

Broadband project funding available

Governor Little's Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) is making \$50 million available for projects that will help expand Idaho's broadband services. Not-for-profit and governmental hospitals are among those eligible to apply for funding.

The funding is designed to support "shovel ready" projects. Projects must be completed and operational by December 30, 2020 to qualify. Additionally, projects for communities with a population of less than 5,000 will be given priority. Other details noted by the CFAC:

- Applicants will have to demonstrate they are not overbuilding broadband services.
- Projects must meet CARES Act criteria and the FCC definition of broadband (25mbps/3mbps).
- No financial match is required and service must be provided by private sector companies, not awardees.

The grant application and process documents are expected to be posted on June 15 for public comment with the application portal opening on June 22. We will provide updated information as it becomes available.

Resource ~ LEP communication tools

The CDC's [communication toolkit](#) is available in multiple languages. Designed to assist hospitals and healthcare providers in their efforts to communicate COVID-19 messaging for those with limited English proficiency, the free documents cover a number of topics including cloth face coverings, test results, hygiene, and many others. Social media resources are also available in both English and Spanish.

Quality & Patient Safety

Resource ~ Maternal care in the COVID era

The pandemic's impact on routine medical care is felt in all areas, including pre- and postnatal care. In efforts to limit exposure, some facilities are discharging mothers and their newborns earlier than the average 48-hour length of stay. This has raised some concern that mothers are receiving proper postnatal care and access to information and support, much of which was occurring during the post-delivery stay.

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), in a recent call, noted the need for evaluating processes to support postpartum mothers and cautioned that current guidelines around physical distancing may contribute to feelings of isolation and elevate the risk for postpartum depression and anxiety.

For more information and potential resources helping care for mothers and babies, review the [IHI's Better Maternal Outcomes Community Connection resource](#) and AHA's recently updated COVID-19 [Maternal and Child Health Resource](#).

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Governor to discuss Stage 4 of re-opening

On Thursday, June 11 at 10a MDT / 9a PDT, Governor Little will provide an update on where Idaho stands in terms of moving to Stage 4 in the Idaho Rebounds plan. The conference can be streamed through [Idaho Public Television](#).

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