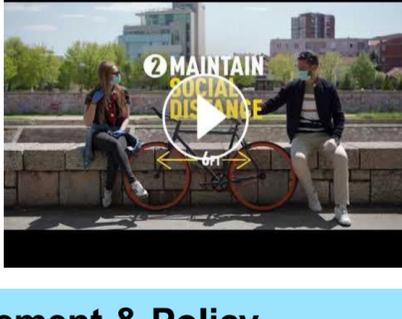


COVID-19 Report to Members ~ August 3, 2020

Reports are sent on Mondays and Thursdays, unless there's breaking news.



Reimbursement & Policy

HHS changes data reporting process

Over the weekend, HHS updated its guidance and FAQs regarding daily reporting, most notably impacting supply data reporting:

- Hospitals may decrease the frequency of reporting **supply-related data fields** (items 26-32 in the guidance document table) from daily to three times per week. Specifically, HHS is asking hospitals to report these data on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- For items 26-32 in the guidance document table addressing days of supply, hospitals now have the option of selecting a range of days, rather than calculating a specific number.

In the FAQs, HHS addresses, among other topics, how to fix data errors, how organizations (like hospital associations) can get access to data, and what hospitals should do if they cannot report data on weekends.

HHS also announced the deployment of Hospital Data Liaisons to work collaboratively with states to obtain information about barriers to reporting complete data and are expected to help states and hospitals obtain additional clarification and guidance around reporting requests.

Resources & Equipment

Impact of stay-at-home order on epidemic "doubling" time

A **recent study** in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* looked at COVID-19 epidemic doubling time in the United States before and during stay-at-home restrictions. Nationally, epidemic doubling time increased from 2.68 days before stay-at-home restrictions (Phase 1) to 15.00 days after (Phase 2). With the exception of Minnesota, all 45 states that implemented a stay-at-home order had a statistically significant longer epidemic doubling time in Phase 2 compared to Phase 1. In Idaho, doubling time estimated by this study was 4.26 days prior to the stay-at-home order and 27.64 during the stay-at-home order.

Reimbursement available for COVID-19 counseling

The CDC and CMS have launched a new initiative that encourages providers to counsel patients being tested for COVID-19 about the importance of isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing to slow the spread of the virus. Swiftly isolating or quarantining – while waiting for test results – is critical to keeping families and communities safe. As part of this effort, Medicare and Medicaid will now reimburse providers for counseling patients on taking these key prevention strategies and have provided these resources:

- provider Q&A about reimbursement for counseling;
- provider-patient counseling talking points;
- provider counseling checklist;
- 3 key steps to take while waiting for your COVID-19 test result; and
- infographic describing what to expect during contact tracing.

Crisis standards of care resource

A **new report** from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine outlines clinical staffing considerations when implementing crisis standards of care. The report focuses on staffing needs and strategies for the care of COVID-19 patients and include considerations on:

- ensuring support of existing staff;
- strategies to reduce ED and inpatient loading;
- obtaining additional staff (Temps, Travelers, Co-Op agreements, etc.);
- re-deploying staff and adjusting responsibilities; and
- changing the current staffing model.

The Academies are hosting webinars on crisis standards of care and COVID-19 data applications for state and local decision-making during the pandemic. The **first webinar** will outline standards-of-care strategies that hospitals and health systems should consider during crisis events including adjusting staff responsibilities, providing staff with hazard pay and ensuring the appropriate transfer of patients between facilities. The **second webinar** will review COVID-19 data types and explore how decision-makers can evaluate and use this data to understand the spread of the disease in their communities.

Quality & Patient Safety

CMS guidance for COVID-19 infection control surveys

CMS continues to focus on ensuring safe care for patients during this pandemic. As such, CMS has released **general guidance** surveyors will adhere to during a COVID-19 Focused Infection Control Survey in the acute and/or continuing care settings. This document can assist hospitals with preparing for survey while ensuring compliance with CMS standards. Please note that general accreditation and complaint surveys are no longer delayed. The Bureau of Facility Standards, DNV and TJC have resumed survey activities in Idaho.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Governor's next press conference

On Thursday, Governor Little will talk about Idaho's ability to move past Stage 4 as well as the safe reopening of schools.

Governor's Press Conference
Thursday, August 6 – 12p MT / 11a PAC



Webinar ~ Cybersecurity during COVID-19

Cybersecurity breaches are almost daily and COVID-19 has amplified the problem, as "bad actors" seize upon the opportunity to take advantage of hospitals at their most vulnerable time.

In partnership with IHA and other western hospital associations, PYA Principal Barry Mathis will present Cybersecurity During COVID-19: A Look Behind the Scenes, a complimentary one-hour webinar as part of the Frontier States Town Hall Meeting.

Barry will cover information related to HIPAA, cybersecurity, and a special behind-the-scenes view into the tradecraft of bad actors. This unique presentation will include:

- recent enforcement trends by the Office for Civil Rights;
- the current environment for ransomware;
- an opportunity to watch as Barry logs onto the Dark Web and shows you first-hand how bad actors operate; and
- ideas for managing cybersecurity threats.

Cybersecurity During COVID-19: A Look Behind the Scenes
Wednesday, August 12 – 9a MT / 8a PAC

Register

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

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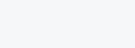
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