

# IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

August 18, 2020

## The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

### HHS expands eligibility for general distribution funds

HHS has clarified that those who bill Medicare, Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care or CHIP, or are a dental provider, are eligible to apply for general distribution funding if they have not already received 2% of their patient revenue from the fund. First-time or previous applicants also may apply if they haven't already received 2% of their patient revenue.

**This includes Medicare Part A providers who experienced a change in ownership and billed Medicare fee-for-service in 2019 or 2020 and had previously been ineligible to apply.**

The deadline for applying for this general distribution funding is **Friday, Aug. 28**.

HHS has scheduled a webcast from **2-3 pm Thursday, Aug. 13**, to discuss the expanded eligibility. Providers can register [HERE](#). For more details, including how to apply, visit HHS' [webpage](#).

### Appropriate-use criteria program testing extended

The educational and operations testing period for the [appropriate-use criteria program](#) has been extended through calendar year 2021. There are no payment consequences associated with the program during calendar years 2020 and 2021. Stakeholders are encouraged to use this period to learn, test and prepare for the appropriate-use criteria program.

### HHS releases COVID-19 testing plans from states

The Department of Health and Human Services has posted [COVID-19 testing plans](#) for state, local and territorial jurisdictions through the rest of calendar year 2020. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in May [distributed \\$10.25 billion](#) from the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act to state, territorial and local jurisdictions for COVID-19 testing, surveillance, contact tracing and related activities. The recipients were required to submit a plan for using the funds, including their strategy and goals for diagnostic and serology tests for the rest of this year.

### Health equity during COVID-19 and disproportionate outcomes for marginalized groups

The National Academy of Medicine's [Culture of Health Program](#) is committed to advancing the scientific underpinnings for progress in health equity and sharing evidence-based strategies. The intent is to dismantle structural racism and ultimately achieve health equity for all, mitigating the effects of the crisis and safeguarding the nation's well-being. The program has compiled a [list of resources on health equity in the context of COVID-19](#). These resources will be updated regularly.

### New Dimensions dashboards released

IHA has published two new dashboards to Dimensions Discovery Datalytics: Medicare COVID-19 High Risk and Medicare COVID-19 High Risk County. These dashboards use the new Medicare Part B dataset and show where different high-risk patients are going for care and how Iowa counties compare in terms of the percentage of visits classified as "high risk."

To arrange a WebEx training on these or other IHA dashboards, email [John Richardson](#).

## CEO update call

The next CEO update call is scheduled from **1-2 pm Wednesday, Aug. 26**. Click [HERE](#) to register.

## Educational opportunities

- **11:30 am-Noon Thursday, Aug. 13, Rethinking Virtual Care During COVID-19** – From supporting fewer than 5,000 visits annually pre-pandemic to more than 5,000 visits per day at the height of the COVID-19 surge, the Brigham Virtual Care team grew a boutique service to become an indispensable part of everyday care. In this webinar hosted by the Massachusetts Hospital Association, panelists will discuss their front-line experience in managing the rapid expansion of services to patients and providers. Additionally, learn how the team is rethinking telemedicine access in ambulatory, inpatient and global contexts. Register [HERE](#).
- **Noon-1 pm Thursday, Aug. 20, Leadership and Resiliency: Navigating Through and Beyond COVID-19 – Win When: The 21st Century Challenges of Health Equity** – From broken community partnerships to diminished funding, how do we overcome the 21st century challenges of health equity? This presentation motivates clinicians, researchers and health care leaders to explore the role, recognition and remediation of inequity in medicine. The presentation also teaches health care providers and biomedical researchers how to clinically confront the deadly "isms" that prevent quality care and public wellness. This session, and the entire series, is complimentary. Register [HERE](#).
- **2-3 pm Tuesday, Sept. 1, Implementing a Successful Rural Telemedicine Program** – This webinar will examine the value and benefit of inpatient telemedicine programs, with an emphasis on its use in rural hospitals. The Access Physicians team will discuss specific subspecialties that can be provided through telemedicine to help hospitals retain patients, improve clinical outcomes and be financially successful. The presentation also will provide a road map to implementing those programs. Register [HERE](#).
- **2-3 pm Thursday, Sept. 17, Gratitude: The Path to Resilience, Well-being and Joy** – Gratitude isn't just a practice that makes one feel good. It can boost resilience, improve sleep, be a buffer against anxiety and depression, and reduce burnout in health care professionals. This webinar will explore meditation, journaling and expressive art practices designed to cultivate gratitude and boost resilience. Attendees also will learn how gratitude can enhance on-the-job effectiveness. Register [HERE](#).
- **8:30 am-12:30 pm Friday, Sept. 18, Iowa Society for Healthcare Engineering Virtual Conference** – The society's fall conference provides education to promote quality patient care, optimize facilities for the COVID-19 environment and prepare for health care's future through improved engineering practices. Register [HERE](#).

Click here for the latest  
**COVID-19**  
**Resources**



IOWA HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

*We care about Iowa's health*



Iowa Hospital Association  
100 E. Grand Ave., Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1800

[Unsubscribe](#)

