

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

April 16, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

IDPH provides interim guidance for long-term care new admissions and return to care

IDPH recently provided [guidance](#) for the management of incoming residents to long-term care facilities. The guidance addresses the coordination of patient discharges from hospitals to long-term care facilities and admissions of new residents. IDPH also provided [training information](#) on the focused infection control survey and [testing guidance](#) from the State Hygienic Laboratory for long-term-care facilities.

CMS increases Medicare reimbursement amount for lab testing

CMS [announced](#) Medicare will pay the higher payment of \$100 for COVID-19 clinical diagnostic lab tests making use of high-throughput technologies developed by the private sector that allow for increased testing capacity, faster results and more effective means of combating the spread of the virus. High-throughput lab tests can process more than 200 specimens a day using highly sophisticated equipment that requires specially trained technicians and more time-intensive processes to assure quality. Medicare will pay laboratories for the tests at \$100 effective April 14, through the duration of the COVID-19 national emergency.

IPPS hospitals, LTCHs: Reprocessing claims for CARES Act

CMS is implementing changes to increase payments to inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) and long-term care hospitals (LTCHs) under Sections 3710 and 3711 of the CARES Act. If an IPPS claim is submitted for discharges or an LTCH claim for admissions on or after Jan. 27, 2020, and it is received by April 20, 2020 or and earlier, Medicare will reprocess the claim. No other action is needed. If the claim is received on or after April 21, 2020, Medicare will process it in accordance with the CARES Act.

For more information, see [MLN Matters Special Edition Article SE20015](#).

Iowa Workforce Development outlines CARES Act benefits and implementation

Iowa Workforce Development [has outlined](#) the benefits of the CARES Act regarding unemployment benefits for the self-employed, independent contractors, nonprofit employees, and those who have exhausted other unemployment insurance benefits and those who may not have sufficient work history to qualify for a regular state claim.

The CARES Act also includes eligibility for those receiving unemployment insurance benefits in any amount to be paid an additional \$600 weekly benefit. With guidance from the US Department of Labor, Iowa Workforce Development has begun aligning resources and technology to create the necessary processes to pay qualified individuals their benefits as quickly as possible. It is estimated this will occur within the next 10 days.

FCC COVID-19 telehealth grant made available

The FCC is offering a COVID-19 telehealth grant to help health care providers connect care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations. This grant is eligible for individual hospital and consortium filing, enabling IHA to apply on behalf of member hospitals. Please review the grant details and email [Corey Martin](#) by **Wednesday, April 22**, to be included in an IHA group filing. Grant applicants must register with the [FCC Cores Program](#) and receive a FRN number and obtain an eligibility determination with USAC. IRHTP consortium members already have this completed. Contact [Corey Martin](#) to receive your USAC HCP number required on the application. Others can file for this number through the [USAC website](#).

To submit an application or find additional information please go to the [FCC COVID-19 webpage](#).

Please email [Corey Martin](#) at IHA if you have any questions and to be included in an IHA group filing.

IDPH releases updated COVID-19 dashboard

IDPH has released an updated [COVID-19 dashboard](#) on its website. The new dashboard includes cases, deaths and tests conducted in each county. Demographic information not previously provided and Iowa's epidemiological curve is now available.

USDA's federal rural resource guide lists programs to help rural communities

The USDA unveiled a one-stop shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations and people affected by COVID-19. [The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) is a resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities. The USDA has taken many immediate actions to help farmers, ranchers, producers, rural communities and rural-based businesses and organizations. For more information about these actions, visit www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Webinar opportunities

- IHA is providing a complimentary webinar titled, [Telehealth Strategies and Coding Concerns: COVID-19](#), with health care consulting firm Stroudwater Associates from 1-2 pm Thursday, April 16. The webinar will address 1135 and appendix K waivers, site-of-service concerns, documentation issues and remote coding support. Participants will gain information that can be incorporated into their revenue cycles and can help ensure documentation, code identification and claim submission are primed for successful representation and reimbursement of services. There is no registration fee for this webinar. For more information, contact [Joah Hogan](#) at IHA.
- 1:30-3 pm Thursday, April 30, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is offering a free webinar about **telehealth and COVID-19**. To register, click [here](#).

DIA's COVID-19 waiver page

To stay up to date on DIA health facility regulations that have been waived, please visit DIA's COVID-19 waiver [page](#) for health facilities.

IHA COVID-19 resource webpage

For current information about COVID-19, visit IHA's [resource page](#).

Previous IHA Updates on COVID-19

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