

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

April 24, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

Deadline extended for hospitals to provide information for targeted relief

The deadline for hospitals to submit information to receive financial support from the Provider Relief Fund Hospital [has been extended to 2 pm Saturday, April 25](#). Hospital site administrators should have received [a letter](#) from the US Department of Health and Human Services with instructions for how to submit to TeleTracking's authentication portal and the information needed to be entered including:

- National Provider Identifier.
- Number of admissions with a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 from Jan. 1-April 10, 2020.
- Number of intensive care unit beds as of April 10, 2020.

This data will guide the decision-making for targeted relief fund payments and is a prerequisite to payment, but it is not a guarantee of eligibility for any amount.

Access to the TeleTracking portal is by email invitation only. Please refer to the email sent to your site administrator by the Department of Health and Human Services. If you have questions about the authentication or registration process, call TeleTracking's technical support team at 877-570-6903.

Coronavirus relief bill approved by House

Today, the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the next set of COVID-19 related legislation, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. The bill includes funding for the Paycheck Protection Program and additional funds for health care providers. Specifically, the bill includes:

- \$75 billion for hospitals and health care providers.
- \$25 billion for expanding the capacity of COVID-19 tests including:
 - \$1 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - \$1.8 billion for the National Institutes of Health to develop and improve testing technology.
 - \$11 billion for states and localities to support testing and tracing contacts.
 - \$825 million for community health centers and rural health centers.
 - Up to \$1 billion to cover costs of testing for uninsured patients.
- An increase from \$349 billion to more than \$670 billion in appropriations for the Paycheck Protection Program.

The legislation did not include language clarifying if public hospitals are eligible to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program, though lawmakers are expected to address this in the next relief bill or administratively. IHA will continue to advocate for this clarification and provide updates. The president is expected to sign the bill tonight or tomorrow morning.

More details on distribution of CARES Act funds

As reported in yesterday's IHA COVID-19 Update, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released additional information about the distribution of the \$100 billion allocated to health care providers in the CARES Act. The next round of funds will be distributed to four groups of providers:

- **General distribution** – Starting tomorrow, \$20 billion will be distributed to providers. The payments providers received from the first \$30 billion will be considered when deciding the amounts distributed in this round. The amounts for all providers will be proportional to their share of 2018 total net patient revenue based on revenue data submitted in Medicare cost reports. **Most hospitals will automatically receive their money starting tomorrow, but will still need to submit revenue information in the CARES Provider Relief Fund portal for verification. Some providers without adequate cost-report data must first submit information to the portal. All providers must sign an attestation confirming receipt of the funds and agreeing to the terms and conditions. It also is crucial for providers to ensure the hospital information in the portal is current and they are receiving HHS emails.**
- **High-impact area distribution** – \$10 billion will be sent to health care providers heavily affected by COVID-19. Hospitals must submit data to HHS by 2 pm Saturday, April 25, through a portal emailed to site administrators.
- **Indian Health Services distribution** – HHS is distributing \$400 million to Indian Health Services facilities based on their operating expenses starting next week.
- **Rural distribution** – \$10 billion will be sent to rural providers as early as next week. Providers will receive funds based on operating expenses and distributed proportionately to each facility and clinic.

HHS is also distributing funds to providers who have provided care to uninsured COVID-19 patients. Funds will cover patients who received services on or after Feb. 4, 2020. **Steps to receive these funds are:**

1. Enroll as a provider participant.
2. Check patient eligibility and benefits.
3. Submit patient information.
4. Submit claims.
5. Receive payment by direct deposit.

Providers can register for this program Monday, April 27, and begin submitting claims in early May. More information can be found [here](#).

SHIP funds coming to Iowa hospitals

More than \$7.5 billion is coming to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to be distributed to hospitals participating in the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program (SHIP) to help purchase testing and laboratory services or replenish critical supplies. These funds will be split between the 90 hospitals participating in the program with each hospital receiving around \$84,000. IDPH is working to approve amended contracts with these hospitals. When they are approved, the hospitals will receive an email from IDPH directing them through the next steps. Any questions about the SHIP funds can be emailed to [Cassie Kennedy](#) at IDPH.

FDA eases regulatory enforcement of drug compounding activities

The FDA has [announced](#) that during the COVID-19 emergency and given the difficulty hospitals are having accessing FDA-approved drugs, it will allow compounding pharmacies known as “outsourcing facilities” to compound drugs needed to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients, even if the medicine is not on the agency's bulk shortage list. The guidance lists 13 drugs used for hospitalized coronavirus patients that can be compounded, including fentanyl citrate, lorazepam and ketamine hydrochloride. The FDA will continually update the list. It also will not pursue enforcement action against outsourcing facilities compounding such drugs that do not appear on the FDA's drug shortage list if the compounded drugs are used for COVID-19 patients and are delivered directly to the hospitals requesting the medicines.

The FDA also issued [temporary policy guidance](#) that allows 503A state-licensed compounding pharmacies, with certain conditions, to compound a specified list of drugs for hospitalized patients without a patient-specific prescription during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This is intended to help address issues hospitals have reported about accessing certain FDA-approved drugs.

Even with the FDA's recent temporary [regulatory flexibility provided to outsourcing facilities](#), the supply of FDA-approved drugs and compounded drugs made by outsourcing facilities may not meet patient needs. As a temporary measure for certain drugs listed in the guidance, the FDA will use its enforcement discretion to allow state-licensed pharmacies to compound these drugs without a patient-specific prescription.

Free webinar opportunities

- 9-10:30 am Tuesday, April 28, **Latest Stark Law Updates, Including Recent CMS Waivers**. This webinar will cover the Physician Self-Referral Law (the Stark Law), including the latest developments, as well as discuss the status of proposed regulatory reforms and the recent CMS waivers associated with COVID-19. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, April 29, **Inspiration Speakers Series: Kevin Kush**. Kush has been involved in coaching and teaching for more than 30 years. He spent 21 of those years working with at-risk youth at Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska. As a head football coach, he compiled a remarkable record of 164 wins and just 58 losses with 13 of those teams finishing in the top 10. Kush was featured on ABC World News Tonight as their Person of the Week. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, May 6, **Inspiration Speakers Series: AmyK, Leading and Communicating in Turbulent Times**. A former executive of a billion-dollar global consumer products company and named the Vistage UK, International Speaker of the Year, AmyK is a catalyst for producing sustainable solutions to a leader's most-pressing challenges. More than 50,000 executives in more than 10 countries have benefited from her keen insight and intuitive understanding of the challenges that leaders face. 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](#)

