



April 2, 2020

Financial Payment Changes

Dear Valued Customer,

This notification is to inform you of a recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) publication.

What impact does this have on Medicare DME providers?

This CMS communication outlines options for Medicare providers to obtain advanced payment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

Under the President's leadership, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an expansion of its accelerated and advance payment program for Medicare participating health care providers and suppliers, to ensure they have the resources needed to combat the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This program expansion, which includes changes from the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is one way that CMS is working to lessen the financial hardships of providers facing extraordinary challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensures the nation's providers can focus on patient care. There has been significant disruption to the health care industry, with providers being asked to delay non-essential surgeries and procedures, other health care staff unable to work due to childcare demands, and disruption to billing, among the challenges related to the pandemic.

"With our nation's health care providers on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19, dollars and cents shouldn't be adding to their worries," said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. "Unfortunately, the major disruptions to the health care system caused by COVID-19 are a significant financial burden on providers. Today's action will ensure that they have the resources they need to maintain their all-important focus on patient care during the pandemic."

Medicare provides coverage for 37.4 million beneficiaries in its Fee for Service (FFS) program, and made \$414.7 billion in direct payments to providers during 2019. This effort is part of the Trump Administration's White House Coronavirus Task Force effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 through a whole-of-America approach, with a focus on strengthening and leveraging public-private relationships.

Accelerated and advance Medicare payments provide emergency funding and address cash flow issues based on historical payments when there is disruption in claims submission and/or claims processing. These expedited payments are typically offered in natural disasters to accelerate cash flow to the impacted health care providers and suppliers. In this situation, CMS is expanding the program for all Medicare pr

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