



Rural Health Special Bulletin

April 1, 2020

Summary of CARES Act Provisions to Help Rural Hospitals; CMS to Host April 2 Call on Medicare Accelerated Payment Program

Register for 5 p.m. ET call on April 2 with CMS

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law on March 27, provides resources and flexibility for rural hospitals. The legislation will help rural hospitals and critical access hospitals that are in dire financial need due to this pandemic.

While this legislation is an important first step forward, more will need to be done for rural providers, patients and communities to deal with the unprecedented challenge of this virus. The AHA will continue to work with Congress and the administration to make sure providers and personnel on the front lines – hospitals, physicians and nurses – remain prioritized for future federal assistance as the COVID-19 pandemic spreads.

View the AHA's [two-page fact sheet](#) outlining provisions to help rural hospitals. The AHA has [urged](#) the Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to directly and expediently distribute to hospitals and health systems funds from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund that were designated for providers in the CARES Act.

For additional information, please contact Erika Rogan at erogan@aha.org.

Register Now for CMS April 2 Call on Medicare Accelerated Payment Program Call

CMS April 2 at 5 p.m. ET will host an audio webcast/call for rural hospitals and critical access hospitals to discuss the Medicare accelerated payment program, which is intended to provide necessary funds to providers, including rural hospitals and critical access hospitals, when there is a disruption in claims submission and/or claims processing.

CMS says conference lines are limited, so the agency highly encourages you to join via audio webcast. You must register [here](#) to participate this way. The dial-in is 877-251-0301 and the conference ID is 1151479.

In a [letter](#) this week to CMS, AHA urged the agency to provide as much flexibility as possible with implementation of the accelerated payment program. See the [March 28 AHA Advisory](#) for details of the accelerated payments to Medicare providers and suppliers during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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