



IROQUOIS

Healthcare Association

To: IHA Members

From: Gary J. Fitzgerald, *President & CEO*

Date: April 22, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Member Update: Federal Hospital Funding, Elective Outpatient Treatments & New Guidance

FEDERAL HOSPITAL FUNDING:

URGENT REQUEST TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL HOSPITAL FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced yesterday that it will make targeted distributions to hospitals and other facilities particularly affected by the increased burden of caring for COVID-19 patients as part of the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. To inform how these funds are distributed, HHS is asking all hospitals to provide the following information:

- Total number of ICU beds as of 4/10/20
- Total number of admissions with a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 from 1/1/20-4/10/20
- National Provider Identifier

****To be eligible for these funds, hospitals must submit this data by 2:59am on Friday, April 24.***

Please see the [HHS announcement](#) for instructions and details.

- [HHS Opens CARES Act Emergency Fund Attestation Portal](#)
 - On April 3, HHS began [distributing](#) the first \$30 billion from the fund created by the CARES Act to reimburse providers for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenues not otherwise reimbursed that are directly attributable to COVID-19.
 - Health care providers who receive funds from the \$100 billion Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund must within 30 days of receipt attest to receiving the funds and agree to the terms and conditions of payment.
- [FCC Accepting COVID-19 Telehealth Funding Applications](#)
 - Hospitals and other healthcare providers are eligible for reimbursement for patient telehealth costs through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program established under the CARES Act. The program will distribute \$200 million in funding. For additional information, see the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program webpage which includes [guidance](#) on the application process, [FAQs](#), and [instructions](#) and a [video webinar](#) for using the online application portal.

FEDERAL & STATE COVID-19 UPDATE:

During his daily press briefing, Governor Cuomo yesterday announced the resumption of elective outpatient treatments across certain parts of the state. Following the press conference, Governor Cuomo issued a press release providing a loose framework methodology for resumption of these types of surgeries and procedures. IHA is working very closely with DOH and the Governor's office on this issue. We compiled a list of questions - based on member feedback - for DOH to consider as official guidance is drafted. **We expect to see that guidance sometime this week and will follow-up accordingly.** According to IHA's initial analysis:

- Hospitals can resume performing elective outpatient treatments on April 28, 2020 if:
 - The hospital is located in a county eligible to resume outpatient treatments
 - The hospital capacity is over 25 percent for the county **and**
 - There have been fewer than 10 new hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients in the county over the past 10 days
 - Patients must test negative for COVID-19 prior to any elective outpatient treatment
- Hospitals will not be able to resume performing elective outpatient treatments on April 28, 2020 if:
 - A hospital has a capacity under 25 percent; **or**
 - A hospital has had more than 10 new hospitalizations in the past 10 days.
 - A hospital is located in one of the following counties: Bronx, Queens, Rockland, Nassau, Clinton, Yates, Westchester, Albany, Richmond, Schuylar, Kings, Suffolk, New York, Dutchess, Sullivan, Ulster, Erie, Orange and Rensselaer Counties.
- Hospitals will be required to cease elective outpatient treatments, if:
 - A county or hospital that has resumed elective surgery experiences a decrease in hospital capacity below the 25 percent threshold **or**
 - An increase of 10 or more new hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients.

Governor Cuomo met with President Trump yesterday to discuss the status of New York's COVID-19 efforts including testing and state funding. At that meeting, Governor Cuomo indicated the USNS Comfort was no longer needed to address the city's fight against the coronavirus. The hospital ship will leave New York for its home port in Virginia to prepare for its next mission.

To date, 182 patients have gone through USNS Comfort and 1,058 have gone through the Javits Center.

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate passed the [Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act](#), another COVID-19 response bill that will increase funds for hospitals and dollars into the Paycheck Protection Program.

The bill includes an additional \$75 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, supplementing the \$100 billion included in the CARES Act, which will fund hospitals and other healthcare providers directly. The bill also includes \$25 billion for testing. A summary of the hospital and testing provisions is available online.

An additional \$310 billion in funding is included for the popular PPP for small businesses to access forgivable loans. Hospitals and providers with less than 500 employees are eligible to receive the loans and have been taking advantage of the program across the state. The program ran out of funding last week.

The House is expected to vote on the measure tomorrow and President Trump has indicated support for the package and further COVID-19 fiscal relief legislation.

Under provisions of an 1135 Waiver, NYSDOH has created an online [Provisional Temporary Provider Enrollment](#) application process that allows physicians, registered physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses to enroll on a temporary basis for the purpose of assisting with COVID-19 activities.

HOSPITAL STAFFING & WORKFORCE:

IHA is hosting weekly calls with Human Resources professionals from our member hospitals and health care systems in order to address workforce and staffing issues related to COVID-19.

Below, please find an agenda and details for our next HR call taking place **on Friday, April 24 at 1:00pm.**

- IHA/Pandion COVID-19 Update
 - Resumption of Elective Outpatient Surgeries & Procedures
- Furloughs & Layoffs
 - IHA Survey Update
 - HR Execs Update
 - Follow-Up:

- Hours Reduction - Qualifying Event
- Unemployment Insurance - Partial Shutdown
- NY Paid Sick Leave Law
- New and Member-Identified Issues
- Open Discussion

Call-in information will be sent directly to HR Executives and hospital CEOs. If you are interested in participating in the call, please RSVP to Denise Foeder at dfoeder@iroquois.org or (315) 410-6468 by 11am on Friday, April 24.

NEW COVID-19 GUIDANCE:

[NYSDOH Guidance on Discontinuation of Isolation and Transmission-Based Precautions for COVID-19 Patients and PUIs in Hospitals and other Facilities](#)

- The conditions under which hospitals and other facilities may discontinue transmission-based precautions are more stringent than those for persons under [home isolation](#). NYSDOH guidance issued on 4/19 outlines those conditions under test-based and non-test-based strategies. The test-based strategy is strongly preferred for severely immunocompromised patients. If the test strategy is not used for individuals severely immunocompromised, the case should be discussed with the LHD or NYSDOH.

[CDC Updates Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](#)

- This guidance was updated 4/13 to include the recommendation that all healthcare facilities put policies into place requiring source control, regardless of symptoms. Key points include:
 - Healthcare personnel (HCP) should wear a facemask at all times while they are in a healthcare facility.
 - Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE because their ability to protect HCP is unknown. Facemasks, if available, should be reserved for HCP.
 - For visitors and patients, a cloth face covering may be appropriate. Facemasks may be used for source control if supplies are available.

IHA COVID-19 KEY GUIDANCE & DIRECTIVES TRACKER

Below, please find the most recent guidance on infection prevention and control, reimbursement, patient evaluation, PPE and supplies, and other issues.

Situational Awareness

- [NYSDOH COVID-19 Tracker](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Data & Surveillance](#)

Hospital Operations

- [NYSDOH | Guidance on EO 202.16: Employee Face Covering Requirement](#) - New 4/14
- [NYSDOH | Hospital Volunteer and Staffing Waivers per EO 202.10](#) - New 4/11
- [NYSDOH | Visitation Guidance for Hospitals](#) - Updated 4/10 (*supersedes all previous guidance*)
- [NYSOPWDD | Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Certified Residential Facilities](#) - New 4/10
- [CDC | Return to Work Criteria for Healthcare Personnel](#) - Updated 4/13

Clinical

- [NYSDOH | Discontinuation of Isolation for Patients in Hospitals and Other Settings](#) - New 4/19
- [CDC | Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs](#) - Updated 4/19
- [CDC | Information for Pediatric Healthcare Providers](#) - Updated 4/17
- [CDC | Clinical Questions & Answers](#) - Updated 4/16
- [CDC | Infection Prevention & Control Recommendations in Healthcare Settings](#) - Updated 4/13

Diagnostic Testing

- [NYSDOH | Wadsworth Center's Assay for SARS-CoV-2 IgG Questions &](#)

- [Answers](#) - New 4/20
- [NYSDOH | Guidance for Private Practice Specimen Collection Sites](#) - New 4/19
- [NYSDOH | Updated Infection Disease Requisition \(IDR\) Form | Guidance](#) - Updated 4/9
- [FDA | FAQs on Diagnostic Testing](#) - Updated 4/20
- [FDA | Reporting Adverse Events](#) - Updated 4/20
- [FDA | Serological/Antibody Test Validation and Education-Commissioner's Statement](#) - New 4/18
- [FDA | Information for Healthcare Providers on Use of Serological/Antibody Tests](#) - New 4/17

PPE & Medical Supplies

- [FDA | Recent Medical Device Guidance Documents and Enforcement Policies](#) - Updated 4/21
- [FDA | Reporting Adverse Events](#) - Updated 4/20
- [FDA | PPE Emergency Use Authorizations \(EUA\)](#) - Updated 4/18
- [FDA | Ventilator & Medical Device Emergency Use Authorizations \(EUA\)](#) - Updated 4/17
- [FDA | In Vitro Diagnostic Test Kit Emergency Use Authorizations \(EUA\)](#) - Updated 4/15
- [FDA | EUA: Non-Surgical Face Masks](#) - Updated 4/18
- [FDA | EUA: Use of Certain Faceshields](#) - New 4/13

Non-Acute Care

- [NYSDOH | Guidance for Managing Nursing Home Resident Deaths](#) - New 4/19
- [NYSDOH | ACF Infection Prevention and Control Guidance](#) - New 4/17
- [NYSDOH | ACF Infection Prevention and Control Preparedness Checklist](#) - New 4/17
- [NYSDOH | LTCF Infection Prevention and Control Preparedness Checklist](#) - New 4/10
- [NYSDOH | Regulatory Relief Home Care Providers](#) - New 4/10
- [CMS | LTCF Notification Requirements for PUI/Confirmed COVID-19 Cases](#) - New 4/19
- [CMS | LTCF Guidance for Transferring or Discharging Residents](#) - Updated 4/13

Medicaid & Medicare

- [NYSDOH | Medicaid Online Medicaid Provider Enrollment During COVID-19](#) - New 4/20
- [NYSDOH | COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers](#) - Updated 4/20
- [CMS | Medicare Fee-for-Service Billing FAQs](#) - Updated 4/17
- [CMS | CARES ACT Reimbursement Waivers and Implementation Guidance](#) - New 4/15
- [CMS | Medicaid & CHIP FAQs on CARES ACT Enhanced Federal Funding](#) - Updated 4/13

CMS COVID-19 UPDATE:

Below, please find the latest CMS COVID-19 updates.

- **3-Day Waiver Also Applies To Swing-Bed Care**
 - CMS issued an updated COVID-19 Medicare Billing [FAQ](#) on 4/17 which clarifies that the agency is waiving the Medicare coverage requirement for a three-day prior hospitalization requirement for both skilled nursing facilities and swing-bed services furnished by critical access hospitals and rural swing-bed hospitals (see question no. 4).
- **CARES Act Reimbursement Waivers and Implementation Guidance**
 - CMS released [guidance](#) on 4/15 implementing several provisions of the CARES Act. These provisions include:
 - A 20% Medicare add-on payment for inpatient hospital COVID-19 patients;
 - Waiver of the LTC hospital site-neutral policy and "50% Rule" for COVID-19 patients; and
 - Waiver of the inpatient rehabilitation facility "3-Hour Rule" for COVID-

PPE, SUPPLIES & OTHER EQUIPMENT:

UISS/Premier Members

[Click here](#) to logon the website to get the latest Supplier updates from Premier's Disaster Preparedness and Response Community.

Premier Letter to Suppliers - On behalf of its members, Premier has asked its contracted suppliers for payment flexibility. Read [Premier's letter to its suppliers here](#).

Key Surgical - Premier's Surgical Services Committee is pleased to announce a new agreement has been awarded to Key Surgical LLC. This six-month agreement is effective April 20, 2020, through October 19, 2020. Key Surgical joins Cardinal, Halyard, Medline, Precept Medical, Prestige Ameritech, S2S Global and TIDI Products in the portfolio. These products are being added to the Premier contract to provide additional product options during the COVID-19 pandemic. To view portfolio highlights, [click here](#).

NEXT Medical - Premier's Surgical Services Committee is pleased to announce a new agreement has been awarded to NEXT Medical Products Company LLC. This six-month agreement is effective April 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020. NEXT Medical joins Flexicare, Salter Labs, SunMed, S2S Global and Teleflex in the portfolio. These products are being added to the Premier contract to provide additional product options during the COVID-19 pandemic. To view portfolio highlights, [click here](#).

UISS/Premier & Non-Premier Members

Find information on Supplier updates below:

Cardinal - Cardinal recognizes that there is fraudulent activity in the marketplace and has [provided precautions](#) customers should take. Cardinal Health [Surgical Gowns Reprocessing Letter](#); information for members that may have an interest in re-purposing a Cardinal Health surgical gown for isolation gown purposes.

Essity - Due to current demands of Essity's conventional bath tissue, they are temporarily suspending manufacturing of all but the five SKUs in the [attached letter](#).

PDI - PDI will focus their efforts on the manufacturing and shipment of core surface disinfection products included on the EPA's List-N. Effective immediately, they are [prioritizing the production](#) of Super Sani-Cloth® wipes, Sani-Cloth® Bleach wipes, and Sani-Cloth® AF3 wipes in all formats.

HERDS SURVEYS & CALLS:

The daily **COVID-19 Patient and Bed Summary Survey** opens at 12:00pm and closes at 4:00pm.

DOH continues to hold a mandatory call once a day at 12:00pm to brief hospital leadership and staff on issues with data and survey completion as well as to communicate any changes or directions for that day's survey

- Call-in number: **844-467-8050**

Survey questions continue to evolve to meet planning and operational needs. Please be sure to read the survey guidance each day for any new questions and information on how to enter data. Questions may be submitted by email to: hospinfo@health.ny.gov.

IHA continues to be in contact with our allied associations, DOH, the Governor's office and state lawmakers to address ongoing hospital concerns related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We have created a dedicated email address - covid@iroquois.org - for you to **share REQUESTS, IDEAS, and CONCERNS that we will communicate directly to state and federal government**.

[Let us know](#) what best practices and processes your hospital has implemented to combat coronavirus.

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Iroquois Healthcare Association | (518) 383-5060 | www.iroquois.org

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