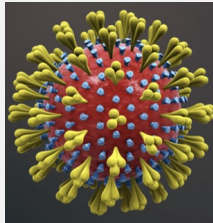


COVID-19 Policy Updates

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This newsletter includes information about the most recent regulatory changes issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). SHM will continue to provide you with updated policy and regulatory information relevant to hospital medicine as it is released.

This issue contains:

- [Summary of QPP Changes for Hospital Medicine](#)
- [Summary of Medicare Telehealth Changes](#)
- [SHM Sends Letter on Immigration Reform to DHS and Senate Judiciary Majority](#)
- [Bipartisan Group in Congress Sends Letter on Immigration](#)
- [SHM Joins Multi-Stakeholder Letter on COVID-19](#)
- [Updated FAQ on Medicare FFS Billing](#)

Summary of QPP Changes for Hospital Medicine

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) announced administrative relief and reporting flexibilities for providers participating in the Quality Payment Program (QPP). SHM has created a resource document that summarizes some of the recent data reporting deadline extensions and additional administrative relief efforts for the Quality Payment Program.

[Access document](#)

Summary of Medicare Telehealth Changes

SHM has compiled the most relevant information for hospitalists about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS') regulatory actions to expand what is reimbursable through Medicare for telehealth. These waivers are dated with a retroactive start date of March 1, 2020 and will extend throughout the duration of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). This resource document summarizes the telehealth changes most relevant to hospital medicine and includes links to additional resources.

[Access document](#)

SHM Sends Letter on Immigration Reform to DHS and Senate Judiciary Majority

On April 14, 2020, SHM sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security that outlined recommendations to increase the physician workforce via skilled immigration reform. Immigrant physicians provide quality, lifesaving care to patients throughout the United States, and many immigrant physicians are putting their lives on the line daily to care for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, visa restrictions are limiting the ability to effectively utilize and deploy these physicians in communities with the greatest need.

To increase physician capacity, we recommend allowing physicians on H-1B visas to work in hospitals that did not sponsor their visa. We also recommend

allowing for electronic filing to speed up the visa application and approval process. Additionally, our letter outlines changes to the J-1 visa program, with changes like relaxing restrictions related to primary and secondary work sites.

[Read letter and our complete list of reform suggestions](#)

Bipartisan Group in Congress Sends Letter on Immigration

As immigrant physicians provide frontline care throughout this pandemic, the value these physicians add to our healthcare system is clearly demonstrated. In recent weeks, SHM has sent letters to Congressional leaders, as well as the Department of Homeland Security, urging for reforms to increase our physician workforce via immigration reform.

SHM's advocacy efforts related to skilled immigration reform are clearly impacting activity on the Hill. If you would like to learn more, read the April 14 letter signed by 47 members of Congress, urging for SHM-requested H1-B and J-1 visa reform.

[Read letter](#)

SHM Joins Multi-Stakeholder letter on COVID-19

As Congress considers additional COVID-19 relief packages, SHM joined the AMA and much of organized medicine to ensure additional relief efforts protect the financial solvency of medical practices.

Topics and policy recommendations included in this letter address:

- Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program
- Medicare and Medicaid Payment
- Direct Financial Support
- Small Business Loans
- Telehealth
- Support for Resident Physicians and Students
- Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA)
- Liability

[Read full letter](#)

Updated FAQ on Medicare FFS Billing

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued an updated FAQ related to recent blanket waivers, the public health emergency, as well as provisions from the COVID-19 relief package. Questions addressed in this FAQ relate to COVID-19 testing costs, capacity expansion and off-site care efforts, rural health care relief efforts and more. [Click here](#) to access the updated FAQ, issued on April 9, 2020.

[View updated FAQ](#)



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