

COVID-19 Policy Updates

Original publication date:

May 28, 2020



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

This issue contains:

- [COVID-19 Blanket Swing Bed Waiver](#)
- [Legislative Update: The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act](#)
- [Join CMS for Lessons from the Frontline Call](#)

COVID-19 Blanket Swing Bed Waiver

CMS has authorized hospitals to establish SNF swing beds payable under the SNF prospective payment system (PPS). This waiver will provide additional options for hospitals who have patients that no longer require acute care but are unable to find placement in a SNF. This waiver applies to all Medicare enrolled hospitals, except psychiatric and long term care hospitals that need to provide post-hospital SNF level swing-bed services for non-acute patients in hospitals, so long as this waiver is consistent with all state-level regulations.

To learn more about this waiver, please [click here](#).

[Learn more on waiver](#)

Legislative Update: The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act

The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (H.R. 6788/S. 3589) will help bolster the healthcare workforce in the United States by recapturing 40,000 unused visas and making these visas available to physicians and nurses. This bipartisan legislation has 25 cosponsors in the House and 20 cosponsors in the Senate. SHM members have already sent nearly 500 messages to their

Congressional leaders—but we need to continue to pressure our legislators to pass this important legislation.

Now more than ever, immigrant hospitalists are providing lifesaving and quality care. This legislation will both bolster our healthcare workforce while also reducing the existing green card backlog. Please visit our [legislative action today](#) and send a message to your elected officials, urging them to support this important legislation.

If you would like to learn more about the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, [click here](#) to listen to SHM Public Policy Committee member Amit Vashist on the National Immigration Forum's "Only in America" podcast. Dr. Vashist spoke about the critical care provided by immigrant physicians, particularly in rural America. Additionally, he spoke of legislation and policies that will bolster our healthcare workforce while also providing greater security for immigrant physicians.

[Legislative action center](#)

[Listen to podcast](#)

Join CMS for “Lessons from the Frontline” Call

Join CMS Administrator Seema Verma, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD, and the White House Coronavirus Task Force on this weekly call. This call provides physicians and other clinicians the opportunity to share their experience, ideas, strategies, and insights related to your COVID-19 response. This call will also feature a discussion on emerging best practices in communicating and caring for patients with serious illness in the face of COVID-19.

To register for this call, please [click here](#).

[Register for call](#)

Thank you

SHM thanks you for your continued service on the frontlines. Visit [SHM's COVID-19 resource page](#) to stay updated with the latest information by hospitalists and other organizations. SHM wishes you safety and good health during these times.



1500 Spring Garden Street
Suite 501 • Philadelphia, PA 19130
P: 800.843.3360 • F: 267.702.2690
www.hospitalmedicine.org