

Hospice and Palliative Care Resources for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 10/09/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links. Please note, these Updates are published when there is helpful news to share.

“You only have 12 notes. Do what you want with them.”
– Eddie Van Halen, guitarist, songwriter, producer (1955-2020)

Policy Update

CMS Announces New Repayment Terms for Medicare Accelerated or Advance Payment Loans Made to Providers During COVID-19

CMS has announced amended terms for payments issued under the Accelerated and Advance Payment (AAP) program, following recent Congressional action. Repayment will now begin one year from the issuance date of each provider or supplier’s accelerated or advance payment. After the first year, Medicare will automatically recoup 25% of Medicare payments for 11 months, with an increase to 50% for another 6 months. If the provider or supplier is unable to repay the total amount of the AAP during this time-period (a total of 29 months), CMS will issue letters requiring repayment of any outstanding balance, subject to an interest rate of 4%.

There is an option for an extended repayment schedule (ERS) for providers and suppliers who are experiencing financial hardship. The ERS option is a debt installment payment plan that allows a provider or supplier to pay debts over the course of 3 years, or up to 5 years in the case of extreme hardship.

To allow even more flexibility in paying back the loans, according to the News Release, the \$175 billion issued in Provider Relief funds can be used towards repayment of these Medicare loans. CMS will be communicating with each provider and supplier in the coming weeks as to the repayment terms and amounts owed as applicable for any accelerated or advance payment issued. This is an interesting development as providers that did not request or accept an advance payment would not be eligible for using Provider Relief Funds for payments of debt whereas it appears those providers which requested and accepted advance payments could have debt essentially forgiven, or a portion forgiven.

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For more information, see the [CMS Fact Sheet](#) and [FAQs](#) on this topic.

Provider Update

Upcoming CMS COVID-19 Office Hours Calls

On Tuesday, October 13 and October 27, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. ET, CMS will be offering Office Hours Calls for hospitals, health systems, and providers. Office Hour Calls provide an opportunity for providers to ask questions of agency officials regarding CMS's temporary actions that empower local hospitals and healthcare systems to: Increase Hospital Capacity – CMS Hospitals Without Walls; Rapidly Expand the Healthcare Workforce; Put Patients Over Paperwork; and Further Promote Telehealth in Medicare. Please note conference call lines are limited.

Tuesday, October 13 call information:

Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 833-614-0820

Access Passcode: 6379959

Audio Webcast: <https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2607>

Tuesday, October 27

Save the date; dial in to be provided later in October.

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