

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop N2-20-16  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



**Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs/Freedom of Information Group**

Refer to: Control Number 031720207090

12/18/2020

Austin R. Evers  
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT  
1030 15th Street NW, B255  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is the first interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) request of 3/17/2020, which you sent to Hugh Gilmore, Director, Division of Freedom of Information Act, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). CMS assigned your FOIA request the case number 031720207090. In this request, you sought the following records for the time period January 15, 2020 to the present:

All email communications (including email messages, complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by the following government officials:

1. Seema Verma, Administrator
2. Deputy Administrator (and Deputy Chief of Staff), Brady Brookes
3. Demetrios Kouzoukas, Principal Deputy Administrator
4. Kimberly Brandt, Principal Deputy Administrator

Containing any of the following key words:

1. Coronavirus
2. Corona
3. Virus
4. Disease
5. Pandemic
6. Epidemic
7. Outbreak

8. containment
9. “public health emergency”
10. “COVID-19”
11. “COVID 19”
12. COVID19
13. SARS
14. “2019-nCOV”
15. POTUS
16. Test
17. Tests
18. Testing
19. EUA
20. Emergency
21. Wuhan
22. Hoax
23. Hubei
24. Princess
25. Cruise
26. Kirkland
27. Seattle
28. “New Rochelle”
29. “BioGen Conference”
30. CPAC
31. AIPAC
32. RNA
33. “Extraction kits”
34. Roche
35. Vaccine
36. Antiviral
37. Antiretroviral
38. Quarantine
39. Distancing
40. Isolation
41. N95
42. Mask
43. Respirator

By agreement of both parties, the scope of documents was narrowed as follows:

1. Processing of attachments were deferred contingent upon AO’s being able to request specific attachments of interest upon review of the emails.
2. Custodians were narrowed to only include to Verma, Brookes, and Kouzoukas.
3. Key search terms were limited as follows:

- a. **Cut 33 Key Terms:** Virus, Disease, Pandemic, Epidemic, Outbreak, Containment, “Public Health Emergency”, SARS, “2019-nCOV”, Test, EUA, Emergency, Princess, Cruise, Kirkland, Seattle, “New Rochelle”, “BioGen Conference”, CPAC, AIPAC, Wuhan, Hubei, RNA, “Extraction Kits”, Roche, Antiviral, Antiretroviral, Quarantine, Distancing, Isolation, N95, Mask, and Respirator
- b. **Maintain 2 Key Terms Without Any Limitation:** POTUS and Hoax
- c. **Limit 8 Key Terms:** For the Original Key Terms in Column A, below, limit responsive records to those that also include one or more of the Limiting Key Terms in Column B, below.

Column A: Original Key Terms	Column B: Limiting Key Terms
i. Coronavirus	i. Trump
ii. Corona	ii. Pence
iii. “COVID-19”	iii. VPOTUS
iv. “COVID 19”	iv. “White House”
v. COVID19	v. “the WH”
vi. Testing	vi. Jared
vii. Tests	vii. Kushner
viii. Vaccine	viii. Birx
	ix. Azar
	x. AMA
	xi. Giroir
	xii. Fauci
	xiii. Uninsured
	xiv. Medicaid
	xv. Exchanges
	xvi. Marketplace
	xvii. Marketplaces
	xviii. SEP
	xix. Enroll
	xx. Enrollment
	xxi. “Healthcare.gov”
	xxii. Oscar
	xxiii. Parente
	xxiv. UHC
	xxv. UHG
	xxvi. Optum
	xxvii. Wichmann
	xxviii. UnitedHealthcare
	xxix. UnitedHealth
	xxx. Election

Mr. Austin Evers  
December 18, 2020  
Page 4

In this first interim response, we processed a total of one thousand two hundred and eighty (1,280) pages of records and determined that five hundred and seventy (570) pages were responsive to your FOIA request. After careful review, we are releasing thirty-four (34) pages in full, releasing eighty (80) pages in part, and withholding thirteen (13) pages in full. Three hundred and ninety-nine (399) pages were deemed responsive but duplicative. We have determined that forty-four (44) pages did not originate with CMS; therefore, they will be sent out for consultation.

The withholdings in full and in part are pursuant to Exemption (b)(5) (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5)) and Exemption (b)(6) (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)). The specific exemption claimed is notated on each page.

We are continuing our review of records potentially responsive to your requests. As additional reviews and disclosure determinations are completed, CMS will release any nonexempt records to you on a rolling basis as agreed by the parties.

Sincerely yours,

*Hugh Gilmore*  
Hugh Gilmore  
Director  
Freedom of Information Group

Enclosures- 130

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**From:** Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 4/2/2020 1:43:11 AM +0000  
**To:** "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC)" <Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov>; "Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS)" <Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)" <Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC)" <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; "Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC)" <Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov>; "Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL)" <Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6:30 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS

Where did we land on this?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2020, at 9:13 PM, Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Brady texted me the below- just tried calling you- call me to chat

My internet is messed up in the Humphrey building so I can't get Elaine's latest email are you on it? (b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2020, at 8:09 PM, Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC) <Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Hi Brady – wanted to re-up this one for you – see bold type font.

Thank you!  
Elaine

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**From:** Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:10 PM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC) <johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>; Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC) <karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <catherine.howden@cms.hhs.gov>; Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6:30 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS  
**Importance:** High

Hi Brady –

I just spoke with David Wright and Evan Shulman in CCSQ.

We reviewed the following response together, using the regulations, and this is the correct language:

(b)(5)

Please let us know if we're good to send to The Hill and CNN.

Thanks!  
Elaine

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**From:** Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:34 PM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC) <[karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[catherine.howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:catherine.howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC) <[johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov)>; Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS

Thanks Brady – we will make that correction.

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**From:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:33 PM  
**To:** Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC) <[Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC) <[Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC) <[Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov)>; Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS

(b)(5)

*Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

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**From:** Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC) <[Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:30 PM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC) <[Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC) <[Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov)>; Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS  
**Importance:** High

Hi Brady –

Nicole worked with David Wright and his team to answer your questions on our proposed response to CNN and The Hill about COVID-19 Cases in Nursing homes and inspections.

**Flagging that the Hill is on deadline for 5 p.m. today and CNN has no specified deadline.**

**The final response needing review is highlighted in yellow at the end of this note. For context**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thank you-  
Elaine

**INQUIRY FROM CNN:** From the CMS part of things, we were hoping to get a total number of nursing homes that have notified your agency that have a patient with an infectious disease, in this case, COVID-19. We'd like to know comparison data. Like this week compared to last week and the week before that. How many nursing homes is CMS currently inspecting as a result of COVID-19?

**INQUIRY FROM THE HILL**

The CDC says it is aware of more than 400 cases of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in the U.S., but that it doesn't receive the names of these facilities. Is CMS tracking this information? If so, can you release it? If it isn't tracking this information, why not?

**FOR CONTEXT –**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)



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**From:** Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: IFC FAQs

Hi all,

I've made some edits in the attached FAQ document and tried to answer some of Demetrios' questions below (in green). There are several others are probably in a better position to answer.

(b)(5)

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**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 12:33 PM  
**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Thanks.

(b)(5)

Page 6 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

Page 7 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Edits and questions attached.

**INFORMATION NOT RELEASABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW:**

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**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:41 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Here's a new version with (b)(5) section. Thanks.

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**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 5:18 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** IFC FAQs

Here are the IFC FAQs for your review. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Page 10 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

Page 11 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thoughts welcome.

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:27 PM

**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL) <[Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** next bill

(b)(5)



**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 4:50:32 AM +0000  
**To:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Industry confusion - Happy to discuss if the below is not clear [DEN-US\_Active.FID17477863]

thanks

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**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 8:41 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov >  
**Subject:** RE: Industry confusion - Happy to discuss if the below is not clear [DEN-US\_Active.FID17477863]

(b)(5)

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**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 8:39 PM  
**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Industry confusion - Happy to discuss if the below is not clear [DEN-US\_Active.FID17477863]

(b)(5)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Lutz, Holley Thames" <[holley.lutz@dentons.com](mailto:holley.lutz@dentons.com)>  
**Date:** March 23, 2020 at 8:34:00 PM EDT  
**To:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** **Industry confusion - Happy to discuss if the below is not clear [DEN-US\_Active.FID17477863]**

Demetrios:

Our firm represents hospitals in all 50 states, not-for-profit, for profit, AMC and community hospitals. These are some things we're hearing. The telehealth question below has been submitted as a part of a waiver request. Thus, if that puts this to the bottom of your list, totally understood. I am elevating it, however, because we are getting this question numerous times per day. This is meant to be informative for you and is by no means meant to substitute for any official waiver requests you've seen.

1. **Telehealth:** The industry is very delighted about the expanded telehealth coverage for telehealth services to patients regardless of whether they are in a rural area and/or in their homes. Clearly this expands how patients can receive physician, APP professional services, e.g., 1:1 psychotherapy or E/M, billed on a CMS-1500. The confusion arises around whether hospitals can provide telehealth services to patients in their homes and bill for those services on a UB-04.

For example, hospital has a wound care clinic, which is temporarily closed to allow hospitals to utilize space or staff as necessary. That said, there are still patients requiring wound care services, e.g., hospital-based APP to look at wound, change dressing, etc. Hospitals would bill, among other things, an outpatient clinic visit, i.e., G0463. Patients do not want to come to the hospital, or more likely, they are under a shelter-in-place order. Hospital employed APP (not enrolled in Medicare as a practitioner) who usually staffs the wound care clinic can do telehealth visit over FaceTime with the patient while the patient is in the home, provide direction to the patient and his wife about changing the dressing, and keep that patient out of the hospital as a result.

Or, take outpatient psych/partial hospitalization. For a PHP, patients are in the Program only if but for that program the patients would need to be an inpatient. Patients are anxious, self-isolating, under shelter-in-place, but hospital space is repurposed to accommodate current, COVID-19 related care. These vulnerable patients have a high risk of readmission absent PHP services. With Zoom technology today (encrypted), LCSWs can provide individual therapy (even group therapy) with patients in their homes. Again, the only way for hospitals to bill for those services is via a UB-04.

Telehealth is covered under SSA 1834 Special Payment Rules for Items and Services. Specifically, 1834(m)(1) provides:

(1) In general.—The Secretary shall pay for telehealth services that are furnished via a telecommunications system by a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)) or a practitioner (described in section 1842(b)(18)(C)) to an eligible telehealth individual enrolled under this part notwithstanding that the individual physician or practitioner providing the telehealth service is not at the same location as the beneficiary.

In full disclosure, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has published articles on the provision of telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic that are applicable to professional services. CMS's COVID Medicare Telehealth [FAQ Question 13](#), references telehealth services in the

hospital as follows:

**Q: Can hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies or other healthcare facilities bill for telehealth services?**

**A: Billing for Medicare telehealth services is limited to professionals.** (Like other professional services, Critical Access Hospitals can report their telehealth services under CAH Method II). If a beneficiary is in a health care facility (even if the facility is not in a rural area or not in a health professional shortage area) and receives a service via telehealth, the health care facility would only be eligible to bill for the originating site facility fee, which is reported under HCPCS code Q3014. But the professional services can be paid for.

Although it appears that telehealth is being interpreted as covering only Part B (CMS-1500) claims, it is not clear that this is the necessary (or even accurate) interpretation.

Hospitals will do what they have to do clinically to serve patients. Clarifying whether and to what extent hospitals may be reimbursed is critical, however, as hospitals are trying to meet an ever growing demand with stretched and stressed staff and communities.

Based on the above, hospitals respectfully request CMS clarification that hospitals may bill for outpatient clinic services when furnished by clinical personnel (within their scope of license) who are located in the hospital. To do so, hospitals also need an expansion of covered HCPCS/CPT codes eligible for reimbursement via telehealth to accommodate the expansion of telehealth billing by hospitals on a UB-04, e.g., G0643 ..

2. **Blanket Waivers:** The four (4) page 1135 Waiver Overview on CMS's website indicates (as do other sources) that even with a blanket waiver, hospitals "should still notify State Survey Agencies and CMS RO" if they are operating under the blanket waiver. That just seems silly. There's enough to do.

### **Blanket Waiver Modifications**

CMS has, in past disasters, implemented specific waivers or modifications under the 1135 authority on a "blanket" basis, when a determination has been made that all similarly situated providers in the emergency area needed such a waiver or modification. Examples include hospitals that have initiated their disaster plans and are operating under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) waiver, the 25-bed limit and 96-hour annual average per patient length of stay requirement for Critical Access Hospitals, and requests for increases in the number of certified beds for providers. While blanket authority for these modifications may be allowed, the provider should still notify the State Survey Agency and CMS Regional Office if operating under these modifications to ensure proper payment. Similarly, most reporting requirements (such as nursing homes providing Minimum Data Set updates on residents) are suspended for all providers in the impacted areas in accordance with the Waiver authority.

3. **Additional Blanket Waivers:** When/If y'all answer hospital associations' Waiver requests, e.g., AHA, FAH, will these be blanket waivers? Seems so, but thought I'd ask.

OK, I could go on and on but just wanted to give you the feedback above. Again, this is to you, friend. I don't care who reads it if it helps. I just don't want to "jump the line" or get in the way of the well thought out waiver requests I know y'all are working on very diligently.

Hope the fam is ok and hope you are getting some sleep. At least one of us would be!

Thanks, D.

Holley



Holley Thames Lutz

D +1 202 408 6836 | US Internal 26836  
[holley.lutz@dentons.com](mailto:holley.lutz@dentons.com)  
[Bio](#) | [Website](#)  
Assistant: Patricia L. Parris +1 202 408 6943

Dentons US LLP  
1900 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

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**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Sent:** 4/7/2020 3:03:57 AM +0000  
**To:** Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) (Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov);  
Richter,Elizabeth(CMS/CM) (elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: next bill  
**Attachments:** RE: Legislative Proposals DRAFT; RE: DRAFT Outline of Senate Package; OL  
Summaries of COVID Laws

FYI

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2020 11:04 PM  
**To:** Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL) <Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov >  
**Cc:** Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>; Brooks, John (CMS/OA)  
<john.brooks@cms.hhs.gov>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <Eric.Miranda-  
marin@hhs.gov >  
**Subject:** FW: next bill

Alec:

(A) The attached emails contain the latest list I have of the proposals she is referring to and the latest version of the leg language. Here is my assessment of where each stands and, in yellow highlights, next steps for each:

(b)(5)

Page 19 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

Page 20 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)



(b)(5)

Thoughts welcome.

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:27 PM

**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL) <[Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** next bill

(b)(5)

**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Sent:** 4/1/2020 10:37:01 AM +0000  
**To:** "Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI)" <alina.czekai@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request  
**Attachments:** AAPMR COVID-19 Waivers Request Final.pdf

I remember AAPMR

Their letter attached.

(b)(5)

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**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:29 AM  
**To:** Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI) <Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request

(b)(5)

On Mar 31, 2020, at 10:39 PM, Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

(b)(5)

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**From:** Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:02 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)

<[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request

Circling back on the rehab hospitals. I've included them in all of the other relevant stakeholder group calls, but they would really appreciate the opportunity to express their concerns directly with CMS leadership. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

**Alina M. Czekai, MPH**

Office of the Administrator | Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Phone: 410-913-6829

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 8:00 AM

**To:** Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI) <[Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Cc:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request

(b)(5)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kendrick, Martha" <[mkendrick@akingump.com](mailto:mkendrick@akingump.com)>

**Date:** March 26, 2020 at 11:00:51 PM EDT

**To:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)"

<[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Cc:** Kranacs Jeannette <[Jeannette.kranacs@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jeannette.kranacs@cms.hhs.gov)> ,

"Seagrave, Susanne (CMS/CM)"

<[SUSANNE.SEAGRAVE@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:SUSANNE.SEAGRAVE@cms.hhs.gov)> , "Czekai, Alina

(CMS/CMMI)" <[Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov)> , "Smith, Todd C.

(CMS/CM)" <[Todd.Smith@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Todd.Smith@cms.hhs.gov)> , Beller Kate

<[kbeller@amrpa.org](mailto:kbeller@amrpa.org)> , "Kendrick, Martha"

<[mkendrick@akingump.com](mailto:mkendrick@akingump.com)>

**Subject: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request**

Hi Demetrios,

Hope you are doing well. We can only imagine the level of pressure and stress on the CMS team at this juncture. I am reaching out on behalf of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA) Leadership with a time sensitive request — namely, for the foreseeable future during the pandemic emergency, AMRPA requests regularly scheduled weekly meetings/calls with you personally and other appropriate agency officials.

The urgency and seriousness of the COVID-19 crisis is unprecedented and changing rapidly on a daily basis. AMRPA leaders perceive it is imperative to convey first hand on a regular basis the real time situation to help the agency understand the impact of COVID-19 on rehabilitation hospitals, post acute care challenges, patient care needs and regulatory burdens/ relief to name a few areas where CMS' immediate dialogue with physicians and hospital administrators would be valuable and helpful both to the field and federal agency leaders.

AMRPA greatly appreciates the willing engagement of CMS staff on two recent calls and email communications and dialogue with agency staff and their openness, but perceives a need for direct dialogue with top Administration agency officials as well.

We will follow-up with your team tomorrow morning. Please know the AMRPA Board of Directors and member hospitals and rehab physicians in different parts of the country who are facing unprecedented challenges in confronting COVID-19 very much appreciate your consideration and responsiveness. Stay well.

With thanks and best,

Martie Kendrick

(b)(6)

**Martha M. Kendrick**

**AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP**

2001 K Street N.W., Washington, DC  
20006 | USA | Direct: +1 202.887.4215 | Internal:  
24215

Fax: +1 202.887.4288 | Mobile: +1  
(b)(6) | mkendrick@akingump.com | akingump.  
com | Bio

Sent from my iPhone, please understand brevity and  
forgive any typos

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for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named  
above. If you have received this communication in error, please  
notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message.

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**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(5)

**Sent:** 4/1/2020 2:33:40 AM +0000  
**To:** "Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS)" <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Corrected Technical Direction Letter for Issuance: TDL-200316  
**Attachments:** Added Location New PTAN.docx; Added Location No New PTAN.docx; Approval Letter.docx; Attestation for ASCs enrolling as Hospitals during COVID PHE 3.28.20.pdf; Contact Sheet.docx; Converting ASC to Hospital PECOS Steps.docx; Corrected (03-28-20) TDL-200316.pdf; CMS Round 2-Blanket Waivers(3-30-2020).docx

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**From:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:25 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Corrected Technical Direction Letter for Issuance: TDL-200316

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---

**From:** Hops, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** Fischbach, Aaron (OS/IOS) <[Aaron.Fischbach@hhs.gov](mailto:Aaron.Fischbach@hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hoffman, Janice (HHS/OGC) <[Janice.Hoffman@HHS.GOV](mailto:Janice.Hoffman@HHS.GOV)>; Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC) <[Barbara.Fisher@HHS.GOV](mailto:Barbara.Fisher@HHS.GOV)>; Garver, Jennifer (HHS/OGC) <[Jennifer.Garver@HHS.GOV](mailto:Jennifer.Garver@HHS.GOV)>; Ritter, Christina S. (CMS/CMMI) <[Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Bassano, Amy (CMS/CMMI) <[amy.bassano@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:amy.bassano@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA) <[Kathleen.Cantwell@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Cantwell@cms.hhs.gov)>; Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <[Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Jeffrey S. Hops, Attorney  
CMS Division, Office of General Counsel  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
(202) 619-0509

Telework:

(b)(6)

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(b)(5)

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**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Sent:** 3/31/2020 10:50:29 AM +0000

**To:** "Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL)" <Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov>

**CC:** "Brooks, John (CMS/OA)" <john.brooks@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: FW: Stimulus: Implications for Health Sectors; Punting Rx Pricing, Surprise Bills

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Rob Smith [mailto:rob.smith@capalphadc.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 9:02 PM

**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** Stimulus: Implications for Health Sectors; Punting Rx Pricing, Surprise Bills



# Senate Stimulus: Implications for Health Sectors; Punting Rx Pricing, Surprise Bills

March 22, 2020 | HEALTH CARE

Although negotiators have yet to reach an agreement on the third coronavirus response bill, details on the Senate legislation that have been released so far help provide some reasonable parameters of for how much Congress is likely to appropriate for health care and other sectors. These numbers could change as discussions continue. However, we think the amounts detailed below provide a good ballpark, and most objections to the Senate legislation appear directed to unrelated provisions.

In addition to appropriations for items like vaccine development/procurement and hospital relief, several other sectors are likely to benefit from various policy and payment changes that we outline in this note. In general, we see these as consensus measures that are likely to largely trickle through to an end product. These provisions are particularly good news for DME and post-acute providers. A CBO score is not available yet.

Finally, as we've predicted, the Senate legislation would extend a variety (Medicare, Medicaid, and other) of government programs and provisions (collectively known as Medicare extenders) through 2021. The extenders are currently due to expire on May 22, which House Speaker Pelosi intended to use as a vehicle for drug pricing measures, and other members hoped to attach surprise billing measures.

We continue to believe that the stimulus package will punt on extenders through 2021. In our view, this move would largely close the door on major drug pricing and surprise billing legislation clearing until 2022. The need to offset ~\$17 billion in extenders in May was going to be the driving force for drug pricing and surprise billing provisions. If Congress is set to clear extenders via an emergency/stimulus measure that isn't paid for, the offset leverage would essentially evaporate.

## Policy Provisions

- **Sequester Relief**

- Most Medicare providers and MA plans would see relief from the -2% Medicare sequester cut that applies to all services through the end of 2020, as we

predicted on our 3/19 conference call (replay available on request)

- **Telemedicine:** The first coronavirus response bill directed CMS to issue emergency waivers to expand providers' ability to offer telemedicine services during the emergency. We detailed these changes last week - see CMS' recently released implementation toolkit [here](#). The Senate text would provide additional flexibility by:
  - Allowing wider application of a telehealth grant program testing ways to expand service access
  - Allowing high deductible health plans to cover telehealth services pre-deductible through 2021
  - Allowing telemedicine coverage for long-term care services
  - Provide federally-qualified health centers and rural health centers the ability to offer a broad suite of telemedicine services
  
- **Home health and hospices**
  - Temporarily allow PAs, nurse practitioners and/or nurses to conduct care planning activities in addition to physicians
  - Require HHS to consider ways to allow home health agencies to more broadly utilize telehealth services during emergency
  - Allow hospices to satisfy face-to-face patient encounters to recertify hospice benefits via telehealth
  
- **Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities**
  - Waive requirement that patients must be certified to receive at least 3 hours of therapy per day
  
- **Long-term Care Hospitals**
  - Relax 50 percent rule
  - Exempt patients treated in response to the public health emergency from site-neutrality provisions that result in facilities being reimbursed at lower hospital inpatient rates

- **Dialysis**

- Waive requirement of face-to-face visits for home dialysis patients and physicians

- **Strategic National Stockpile, Medical Supplies**

- Require the federal government to include respiratory masks, personal protective equipment, supplies to administer vaccines, and diagnostic tests in the SNS. Clarifies that medical supplies like swabs can be included in stockpile.

- **Drug and Device Shortage Mitigation**

- Establishes new FDA priority review for new sources of drugs in shortage
- Require drug manufacturers to report to FDA when drug ingredients/components are in shortage and maintain contingency plans to help prevent shortages.
- Require, during a public health emergency, for device manufacturers to abide by shortage notifications to FDA similar to current program for drugs.

- **Vaccine and Therapeutic Development**

- Ease financial restrictions on BARDA contracting to allow for larger awards, prioritize funding for projects that aim to mitigate diseases that can transfer from animals to humans
- Allow FDA fast track review for products that treat or mitigate animal to human diseases

- **Antibiotics**

- Require HHS to establish program to provide higher, separate reimbursement for hospital patients discharged with antimicrobial/antibiotic drugs, modeled from DISARM Act manufacturers have pushed for years
- HHS would publish a list of eligible drugs by October 1, 2021
- Hospitals must abide by antibiotic stewardship requirements in order to receive payment incentives

- **Hospitals**

- In addition to \$75b appropriations, provide 20% Medicare add on payment for services provided to beneficiaries coded as Covid-19 patients for treatment of that disease
- Direct CMS to implement a demo allowing for acute care facilities to be reimbursed for providing services to help patients transition to home and community-based care

- **DME**

- Delay application of competitive bidding program pricing to rural areas and others currently not included in program pricing through duration of emergency period (currently exempt through December 2020).
- Adjust reimbursement of other CBP areas from competitive bidding pricing to 75% competitive bidding and 25% pricing prior to competitive bidding through emergency.

#### **Direct Health Care Appropriations**

- \$75 billion for “providers,” bulk likely to be provided to hospitals
- \$20 billion for veterans’ health care
- \$11 billion for vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and other preparedness needs
- \$4.5 billion for the Centers for Disease Control
- \$1.7 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile

[Download PDF](#)

▪ **Rob Smith**

rob.smith@capalphadc.com  
202-215-5202

**Kim Monk**

kim.monk@capalphadc.com  
202-548-0049

ANALYST CERTIFICATION

The following analysts hereby certify (1) that their views about any and all of the subject companies and securities discussed in this report are accurately expressed and (2) that no part of their compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the views expressed in this report: Rob Smith, Kim Monk.

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**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Sent:** 4/1/2020 4:16:31 PM +0000

**To:** "Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS)" <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: FW: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

**Attachments:** Combined CLEAN with Comments QSO 20XX.ASC. Processing ASC attestations for temporary hospital status during COVID PHE 4.1.20 dlk comp.pdf; Combined CLEAN with Comments QSO 20XX.ASC. Processing ASC attestations for temporary hospital status during COVID PHE 4.1.20 dlk comp.docx

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 12:14 PM  
**To:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov>; Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI) <Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ) <Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals  
**Importance:** High

(b)(5)

Thanks!

---

**From:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:00 AM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <[Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI) <[Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ) <[Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19

CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Thanks Demetrios. I made the changes you listed and attached the updated clean version (with all the clearance comments left in but no track changes). I also have the redline version for OSORA purposes but wanted you to see the clean version.

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:53 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <[Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Glad we asked for a clean version -

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:32 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <[Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Thanks, Erin...sharing with Demetrios for awareness.

Demetrios,

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

David R. Wright, Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

410.786.2000

---

**From:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:24 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ) <[Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Here is the redline version (with several OMB changes/comments highlighted in yellow) as well as my clean version for review. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Happy to chat if that's easier to finish this up.



---

**From:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:42 PM  
**To:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

That's doable. I'll be standing by. If I don't acknowledge your email in ten minutes, please bug me.

David R. Wright, Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

410.786.2000

---

**From:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Ok.

I sent a note to Zabeen (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:05 PM  
**To:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Thanks, Erin... (b)(5)

(b)(5)

David R. Wright, Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

410.786.2000

---

**From:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:45 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals  
**Importance:** High

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

OMB

David R. Wright, Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

410.786.2000

---

**From:** Miller, Ruth A. (CMS/OSORA) <[Ruth.Miller@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ruth.Miller@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Thanks,  
Carrie

---

Carrie Shelton | HHS Exec Sec (Detail) | [Carrie.Shelton@hhs.gov](mailto:Carrie.Shelton@hhs.gov) |



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <[REDACTED]> (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Sent:** 4/1/2020 1:56:04 PM +0000

**To:** "Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)" <Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>

**CC:** "Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)" <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; "Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)" <Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; "Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS)" <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>; "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)" <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tee, Gift (CMS/CM)" <Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM)" <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM)" <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: RE: IFC FAQs

**Attachments:** COVID19-Medicare IFC  
FAQs\_TrackChanges\_3.31.20\_CMFO.Policy.MCRev\_935AM dlk.docx;  
COVID19-Medicare IFC  
FAQs\_TrackChanges\_3.31.20\_CMFO.Policy.MCRev\_935AM dlk.pdf

[Here are comments and edits on the attachment. Reviewing new Q&As below next.](#)

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:03 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov>; Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM) <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM) <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

For your review, I am attaching a clean version and a track changes version that address all of the comments and edits, and include several new FAQs. In addition, below are [REDACTED] (b)(5) Once you approve these, they will be added to the clean version for clearance. Thank you.

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

Page 42 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:59 AM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Hope all are well this AM.

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 5:28 PM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

(b)(5)

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**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 3:10 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Here is a clean version of the document, with the exception of 2 comments (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) If others disagree and think either answer needs to change, please let us know.

I also responded to (b)(5) and the updated document reflects this. Thanks.

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:33 PM  
**To:** Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Replies in red

---

**From:** Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:23 PM  
**To:** Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)



<[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
<[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

One addition in purple.

---

**From:** Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: IFC FAQs

Hi all,

I've made some edits in the attached FAQ document and tried to answer some of Demetrios' questions below (in green). There are several others are probably in a better position to answer.

(b)(5)

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**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 12:33 PM  
**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Thanks.

(b)(5)

Page 47 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Edits and questions attached.

INFORMATION NOT RELEASABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW:

This information has not been publicly disclosed and may be privileged and confidential. It is for internal government use only and must not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive the information. Unauthorized disclosure may result in prosecution to the full extent of the law.

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:41 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Here's a new version with (b)(5) Thanks.

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 5:18 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** IFC FAQs

Here are the IFC FAQs for your review. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <EXCHANGELABS/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/RECIPIENTS/F4B26CBB0CBD43DD99C01D0862026AA3-KLY4>  
**Sent:** 4/3/2020 4:01:01 PM +0000  
**To:** "Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)" <Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)" <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; "Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)" <Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; "Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS)" <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>; "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)" <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tee, Gift (CMS/CM)" <Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM)" <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM)" <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>; "French, Beth A. (CMS/CM)" <Beth.French@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: IFC FAQs  
**Attachments:** COVID19-Medicare IFC FAQs\_TrackChanges\_3.31.20\_CMFO.Policy.MCRev\_935AM dlk\_RESPONSE TO DLK\_4.1.20 dlk getting close.pdf; COVID19-Medicare IFC FAQs\_TrackChanges\_3.31.20\_CMFO.Policy.MCRev\_935AM dlk\_RESPONSE TO DLK\_4.1.20 dlk getting close.docx

Edits and comments in the attached in tracked changes word and PDF. Let's touch base briefly on the 1500/UB question at Sr. Staff.

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov>; Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM) <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM) <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Copied to the email for convenience. Same with the CTBS FAQs.

---

**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S.

---

**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 4/1/2020 10:15:41 AM +0000  
**To:** "French, Beth A. (CMS/CM)" <Beth.French@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM)" <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

Slight modification:

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 3:55 PM  
**To:** French, Beth A. (CMS/CM) <Beth.French@cms.hhs.gov>; Richter,Elizabeth(CMS/CM) {elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov} <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

(b)(5)

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <[Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Coleman, Kathryn A. (CMS/CM) <[Kathryn.Coleman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Coleman@cms.hhs.gov)>; Larrick, Amy (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Larrick@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Larrick@cms.hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

(b)(5)

On Mar 29, 2020, at 12:15 PM, Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <[Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

+ Kathryn & Amy

I agree with your quick take.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:48 AM

**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <[Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers  
Quick take on these below

(b)(5)

**From:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:38 AM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <[Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers  
Forwarding to you all since these are all yours

**From:** Jennifer Young <[jyoung@tdyllc.com](mailto:jyoung@tdyllc.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

Here you go from Anthem - and many thanks to the whole team for their time and all they are doing....

**Medicare Questions Associated with Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act**

**Sec. 3710. Medicare hospital inpatient prospective payment system add-on payment for COVID-19 patients during emergency period:** This section would increase the payment that would otherwise be made to a hospital for treating a patient admitted with COVID-19 by 20 percent. Specifically, it increases the weighting factor of diagnosis-related groups (DRGs) for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 by 20 percent. This recognizes that COVID-19 cases can be resource intensive and provides higher payment for these complex patients. This add-on payment would apply for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.

- Will Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) also be required to increase the DRG payment?
- If so, how will CMS adjust a MAO's payment? An offsetting adjustment to MA benchmarks or risk adjustment will be important to ensure adequate payment for increased hospital COVID-19 inpatient costs.
- Will the 20 percent apply to the payment related to COVID-19, or the entire payment for an episode of care/hospitalization, including complications not related to the virus?

(b)(5)

**Sec. 3801. Extension of the work geographic index floor under the Medicare program:** This section would increase payments for the work component of physician fees in areas where labor cost is determined to be lower than the national average [through November 30, 2020](#).

- Will MAOs also be required to increase payments for the work component of certain physician fees?
- If so, will there be an offsetting adjustment to MA benchmarks or risk adjustment?

(b)(5)

**Sec. 3719. Expansion of the Medicare hospital accelerated payment program during the COVID-19 public health emergency:** This section would expand, for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period, an existing Medicare accelerated payment program. Specifically, qualified facilities would be able to request up to a six month lump sum or periodic payment. This accelerated payment would be based on net reimbursement represented by unbilled discharges or unpaid bills. Most hospital types could elect to receive up to 100 percent of



the prior period payments, with CAHs able to receive up to 125 percent. Finally, a qualifying hospital would not be required to start paying Medicare back for four months after receiving the first payment. Hospitals would have at least 12 months to complete repayment without paying interest.

- Will MAOs be required to provide an accelerated hospital payment program during the COVID-19 public health emergency?
- If so, will there be an offsetting adjustment to MA benchmarks or risk adjustment?

b)(5)

**Sec. 3714. Requiring Medicare prescription drug plans and MA–PD plans to allow during the COVID-19 emergency period for fills and refills of covered part D drugs for up to a 3-month supply:** This section would require that Medicare Part D plans provide up to a 90-day supply of a prescription medication if requested by a beneficiary during the COVID-19 emergency period.

- Will MAOs be permitted to apply quantity limits for drugs that may be in short supply such as hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine?

b)(5)

**Sec. 3708. Improving care planning for Medicare home health services:** Under current law, only physicians are able to certify the need for home health services. This section makes a permanent change to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to order home health services for beneficiaries, reducing delays and increasing beneficiary access to care in the safety of their home.

- Will there be any expansion of allowable Medicare home health services during the emergency?

b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2020, at 8:00 PM, Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Thanks—you can send them to me directly or to me, Megan and Sherri from the prior chain.

**From:** Jennifer Young <[jyoung@tdyllc.com](mailto:jyoung@tdyllc.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:43 PM

**To:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers  
Anthem is building out a list of questions and we will circle back ASAP.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2020, at 6:04 PM, Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM)" <[Megan.Worstell@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Worstell@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Date:** March 28, 2020 at 6:04:22 PM EDT  
**To:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** "McQueen, Sherri (CMS/OFM)" <[Sherri.McQueen@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sherri.McQueen@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Gorner, Julia (CMS/OFM)" <[Julia.Gorner@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Julia.Gorner@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Montilla, Maria C. (CMS/OFM)" <[Maria.Montilla@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Maria.Montilla@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Richardson, Tracy E. (CMS/OFM)" <[Tracy.Richardson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tracy.Richardson@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject: Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers**

Kim- We don't understand the question?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2020, at 5:22 PM, Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jennifer Young <[jyoung@tdyllc.com](mailto:jyoung@tdyllc.com)>  
**Date:** March 28, 2020 at 5:13:28 PM EDT  
**To:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject: Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers**

With apologies for a follow up question- have decisions been made about how all of this pulls thru to MA in real-time?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2020, at 3:47 PM, Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

FYI since many of you have been asking about this. Thanks!

**From:** CMS Press <[press@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:press@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)  
<[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** CMS NEWS: Trump  
Administration Provides Financial Relief  
for Medicare Providers

## CMS NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2020

Contact: CMS Media Relations  
(202) 690-6145 | [CMS Media Inquiries](#)

### **Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers**

*Action comes to aid providers and  
suppliers facing challenges in responding  
to COVID-19 pandemic*

Under the President's leadership, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an expansion of its accelerated and advance payment program for Medicare participating health care providers and suppliers, to ensure they have the resources needed to combat the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This program expansion, which includes changes from the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is one way that CMS is working to lessen the financial hardships of providers facing extraordinary challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensures the nation's providers can focus on patient care. There has been significant disruption to the healthcare industry, with

providers being asked to delay non-essential surgeries and procedures, other healthcare staff unable to work due to childcare demands, and disruption to billing, among the challenges related to the pandemic.

“With our nation’s health care providers on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19, dollars and cents shouldn’t be adding to their worries,” said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. “Unfortunately, the major disruptions to the healthcare system caused by COVID-19 are a significant financial burden on providers. Today’s action will ensure that they have the resources they need to maintain their all-important focus on patient care during the pandemic.”

Medicare provides coverage for 37.4 million beneficiaries in its Fee for Service (FFS) program, and made \$414.7 billion in direct payments to providers during 2019. This effort is part of the Trump Administration’s White House Coronavirus Task Force effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 through a whole-of-America approach, with a focus on strengthening and leveraging public-private relationships.

Accelerated and advance Medicare payments provide emergency funding and addresses cash flow issues based on historical payments when there is disruption in claims submission and/or claims processing. These expedited payments are typically offered in natural disasters to accelerate cash flow to the impacted health care providers and suppliers. In this situation, CMS is expanding the

program for all Medicare providers throughout the country during the public health emergency related to COVID-19. The payments can be requested by hospitals, doctors, durable medical equipment suppliers and other Medicare Part A and Part B providers and suppliers.

To qualify for accelerated or advance payments, the provider or supplier must:

- Have billed Medicare for claims within 180 days immediately prior to the date of signature on the provider's/supplier's request form,
- Not be in bankruptcy,
- Not be under active medical review or program integrity investigation, and
- Not have any outstanding delinquent Medicare overpayments.

Medicare will start accepting and processing the Accelerated/Advance Payment Requests immediately. CMS anticipates that the payments will be issued within seven days of the provider's request.

An informational fact sheet on the accelerated/advance payment process and how to submit a request can be found here:

[www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf)

This action, and earlier CMS actions in response to COVID-19, are part of the ongoing White House Coronavirus Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the

Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, visit [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). For a complete and updated list of CMS actions, and other information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).

###

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Washington, DC 20010, USA  
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<image002.jpg>

[newest recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). It directs nursing homes to significantly restrict visitors and nonessential personnel, as well as restrict communal activities inside nursing homes. The new measures are CMS's latest action to protect America's seniors, who are at highest risk for complications from COVID-19. While visitor restrictions may be difficult for residents and families, it is an important temporary measure for their protection.

“As we learn more about the Coronavirus from experts on the ground, we've learned that seniors with multiple conditions are at highest risk for infection and complications, so CMS is using every tool at our disposal to keep nursing homes free from infection,” said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. “Temporarily restricting visitors and nonessential workers will help reduce the risk of Coronavirus spread in nursing homes, keeping residents safe. The Trump Administration is working around the clock to ensure the continued safety of America's health care system, particularly nursing homes.”

The new measures CMS announced today, which supersede prior CMS guidance, constitute the agency's most aggressive and decisive recommendations with respect to nursing home safety in the face of the spread of COVID-19. They include:

- Restricting all visitors, effective immediately, with exceptions for compassionate care, such as end-of-life situations;
- Restricting all volunteers and nonessential health care personnel and other personnel (i.e. barbers);
- Cancelling all group activities and communal dining; and
- Implementing active screening of residents and health care personnel for fever and respiratory symptoms.

The guidance directs nursing homes to restrict visitation except in certain compassionate cases, like end-of-life. In those cases, visitors will be equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks, and the visit will be limited to a specific room only.

CMS's guidance is based upon CDC recommendations informed by real-time information being gathered from experts on the ground in areas with large numbers of COVID-19 cases, like Washington and California. According to CDC, seniors with multiple health conditions are at highest risk for complications. With large congregations of that particularly vulnerable population, nursing homes are extremely susceptible to quick spread of the virus. There have already been reports of large numbers of cases of COVID-19 spreading quickly through nursing homes, such as the Life Care Center in Kirkland, Washington. The spread of COVID-19 in a nursing home can amplify or seed further spread to other facilities when patients are transferred and when staff and visitors come and go. According to CDC, visitors and health care personnel who are ill are the most likely source of introduction of COVID-19 into nursing homes, necessitating today's change in guidance to restrict visitors and personnel.

CMS understands the vital importance of keeping nursing home residents connected with their loved ones. However, the rapid spread of COVID-19 and its transmission through visitors and health care workers – as well as nursing home residents’ high risk – has made it necessary to restrict nonessential visitation in order to protect the health and safety of residents. In lieu of visits, CMS encourages nursing homes to facilitate increased virtual communication between residents and families. CMS also encourages nursing homes to keep residents’ loved ones informed about their care. This could include assigning a staff member as a primary contact for families to facilitate inbound communications, as well as regular outbound communications. Nursing homes are expected to notify potential visitors to defer visitation until further notice through signage and other outreach, such as emails and phone calls.

CDC has made several additional recommendations for nursing homes as they work to keep their residents safe. Nursing homes should put alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95 percent alcohol in every resident room – both inside and outside the room if possible – and in every common area. Additionally, nursing homes should ensure sinks are well-stocked with soap and paper towels for hand washing. They should make tissues and facemasks available for people who are coughing, and make necessary PPE available in areas where resident care is provided. Finally, they should ensure hospital grade disinfectants are available to allow for frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces and shared resident equipment. A full list of CDC guidance to nursing homes can be found [here](#).

This guidance, and earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 virus, are part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19 click here <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=e030d17b-bc65d868-e030e044-0cc47adb5650-62942770dccfd234&u=http://www.coronavirus.gov/>. For information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).

Summary of CMS Public Health Action on COVID-19 to date:

March 13, 2020: CMS issued frequently asked Questions (FAQs) on Essential Health Benefits (EHB) Coverage in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The FAQ detail existing federal rules governing health coverage provided through the individual and small group insurance markets that apply to the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-publishes-faqs-ensure-individuals-issuers-and-states-have-clear-information-coverage-benefits>

March 12, 2020: CMS issued frequently asked questions (FAQs) to aid state Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. CMS is taking this action in its continuing efforts to protect the health and safety of providers and patients, including those who are covered by Medicaid and CHIP.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-publishes-first-set-covid-19->



[frequently-asked-questions-faqs-state-medicaid-and-childrens-health](#)

March 11, 2020: CMS issued frequently asked questions to aid state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-publishes-first-set-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-state-medicaid-and-childrens-health>

March 10, 2020: CMS issued guidance to home health agencies and dialysis facilities with actionable information for healthcare workers on screening, treatment and transfer procedures to follow when interacting with patients in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-sends-more-detailed-guidance-providers-about-covid-19>

March 10, 2020: CMS issued a frequently asked questions to ensure State Survey Agencies and accrediting organizations charged with inspecting nursing homes and other health care facilities, understand that non-emergency survey inspections are suspended. This shift in survey prioritization enables State Inspectors to address the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/covid-19-response-news-alert-cms-issues-frequently-asked-questions-guidance-state-survey-agencies>

March 10, 2020: CMS issued guidance on Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D health and prescription drug plans informing them of the flexibilities they have to provide healthcare coverage for testing, treatments, and prevention of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Leading insurance companies and their industry associations announced they will be treating COVID-19 diagnostic tests as covered benefits and will be waiving cost sharing that would otherwise apply to the test.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-issues-guidance-help-medicare-advantage-and-part-d-plans-respond-covid-19>

March 10, 2020: CMS issued guidance on the range of facemasks that can be temporarily used based on recent changes to CDC and FDA facemask and respirator guidance in light of COVID-19 and supply demands. These are steps the White House Task Force is taking to ensure a maximum supply of facemasks and respirators are available that allow healthcare providers to safely treat patients without exposing themselves or others to COVID-19.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/covid-19-response-news-alert-cms-issues-key-protective-mask-guidance-healthcare-workers>

March 9, 2020: CMS delivered guidance on the screening, treatment and transfer procedures healthcare workers must follow when interacting with patients to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a hospice setting. CMS also issued additional guidance specific to nursing homes to help control and prevent the spread of the virus.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-issues-clear-actionable-guidance-providers-about-covid-19-virus>

March 9, 2020: CMS issued a press release highlighting the telehealth benefits in the agency's Medicare program for use by patients and providers. Expanded use of virtual care, such as virtual check-ins, are important tools for keeping beneficiaries healthy, while helping to contain the community spread of the COVID-19 virus.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/telehealth-benefits-medicare-are-lifeline-patients-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

March 9, 2020: CMS published guidance to hospitals with emergency departments (EDs) on patient screening, treatment and transfer requirements to prevent the spread of infectious disease and illness, including COVID-19. Medicare-participating hospitals are to follow both CDC guidance for infection control and Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) requirements.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-issues-call-action-hospital-emergency-departments-screen-patients-coronavirus>

March 6, 2020: CMS issued frequently asked questions and answers (FAQs) for healthcare providers regarding Medicare payment for laboratory test and other services related to the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/covid-19-response-news-alert-cms-issues-frequently-asked-questions-assist-medicare-providers>

March 5, 2020: CMS issued a second Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for certain COVID-19 laboratory tests, in addition to three fact sheets about coverage and benefits for medical services related to COVID-19 for CMS programs. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-develops-additional-code-coronavirus-lab-tests>

March 4, 2020: CMS issued a call to action to healthcare providers nationwide and offered important guidance to help State Survey Agencies and Accrediting Organizations prioritize their inspections of healthcare.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-actions-address-spread-coronavirus>

February 13, 2020: CMS issued a new HCPCS code for providers and laboratories to test patients for COVID-19. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/public-health-news-alert-cms-develops-new-code-coronavirus-lab-test>

February 6, 2020: CMS gave CLIA-certified laboratories information about how they can test for SARS-CoV-2. <https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurvey/certificationgeninfo/policy-and-memos-states-and-notification-surveyors-authorization-emergency-use-cdc-2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-real-time-rt>

February 6, 2020: CMS issued a memo to help the nation's healthcare facilities take

critical steps to prepare for COVID-19. <https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfo/policy-and-memos-states-and/information-healthcare-facilities-concerning-2019-novel-coronavirus-illness-2019-ncov>

###

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**From:** Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 4/4/2020 6:39:46 PM +0000  
**To:** "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL)" <Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS)" <Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC)" <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: For review: MEDIA INQUIRY: Nursing Home Visitation Guidance (Politico) // Deadline is tonight

Thanks.

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2020, at 2:27 PM, Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 2:11 PM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: For review: MEDIA INQUIRY: Nursing Home Visitation Guidance (Politico) // Deadline is tonight

Thanks Brady (b)(5) see a start below) and remove the highlighted below.

My quick list:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Good to go after that?

Kelly

---

**From:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 1:05 PM  
**To:** Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <[jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review: MEDIA INQUIRY: Nursing Home Visitation Guidance (Politico) //

Deadline is tonight

(b)(5)

*Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

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**From:** Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 11:08 AM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <[jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** For review: MEDIA INQUIRY: Nursing Home Visitation Guidance (Politico) // Deadline is tonight  
**Importance:** High

Brady –

We received the below inquiry early yesterday evening and have worked with Matt, Kim and the CCSQ team on the below response.

Their deadline is tonight.

Please let us know if this looks good to you.

Thanks,

Kelly

## **INQUIRY**

I wanted to reach out for comment for a story on nursing home infections – On March 4, CMS directed state agencies to target infection controls in nursing homes a week after the Kirkland outbreak. Why did the agency decide nine days later to restrict visitors? Was there a push to do so sooner? Was their internal debate? Was the agency waiting for states to take action?

## **PROPOSED RESPONSE**

(b)(5)

Page 4 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

---

**From:** Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 3/9/2020 12:04:51 PM +0000  
**To:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)" <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Why not add some of the material from the ambulance section of the faq?

On Mar 9, 2020, at 5:40 AM, Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Brady— here's the draft ET3 answer I mentioned. Adding Arrah to check if it went to OGC.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tabe-Bedward, Arrah A. (CMS/CMMI) <arrah.tabebedward@cms.hhs.gov>

---

**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 10:30 PM  
**To:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Friedman, Rivka H. (CMS/CMMI) <Rivka.Friedman@cms.hhs.gov>; Matthews, Elizabeth A. (CMS/CMMI) <Elizabeth.Matthews@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS) <Rosa.Mack@cms.hhs.gov>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Looping in Rivka and Liz to help answer whether CMMI cleared its response thru GC

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2020, at 8:06 PM, Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:



I'm not aware that CM sent it to OGC for approval. Arrah, did CMMI? I'm happy to send it if needed.

---

**From:** Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)  
<[Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:54 PM  
**To:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)  
<[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tabe-Bedward, Arrah A. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[arrah.tabebedward@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:arrah.tabebedward@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS)  
<[Rosa.Mack@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Rosa.Mack@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

It looks like CCSQ staff worked with CM and CMMI staff to develop responses to a couple of ambulance transport questions that came from ASH ADM Brett Giroir. Can you confirm that the response below have been reviewed by OGC and are ready to be shared with the CDC?

Thank you

---

**From:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:18 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov)>; Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)  
<[Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wright, Jessica (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Jessica.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jessica.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>; Rogers, Tennille (CMS/CCSQ) <[Tennille.Rogers@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tennille.Rogers@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Jean, Carol, or David,

Megan received a question from the CDC for Assistant Secretary of Health, ADM Brett Giroir. The Q & A is in the email directly below in bold. The full (very long) email trail is included FYI. Can you let us know how to proceed with this? Megan has successfully navigated through the gauntlet of CM and CMMI, and now we want to get the answer back over the CDC.

Thanks,

Evan

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 12:13 PM  
**To:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

**Question from the ASH and drafted answers.  
If you can have this cleared, that would be great.**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -  
**Importance:** High

Hey... (b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:55 AM  
**To:** Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)

<[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Hi, all

The ET3 Team can answer this question:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:38 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI) <[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI) <[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

I am adding Amanda Paige Burns our legal SME.

(b)(5)

Amanda Paige: Do you want to add anything to this?

Warm regards,

J. Alice Thompson

J. Alice Thompson, MA  
Deputy Division Director  
Prevention and Population Health Group  
Division of Health Integration and Innovation  
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard WB-2-31-34  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Cell: 410-746-0222 Office: 410-786-9760  
[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)  
<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns,  
Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI)  
<[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam  
(CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd,  
Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina  
(CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle  
(CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)  
<[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis  
(CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr,  
Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM)  
<[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to  
COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Thank you, Sarah.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best regards,

Megan

---

**From:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)  
<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:14 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI)  
<[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)  
<[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM)  
<[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Megan,

We were able to find an example. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Sarah

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 10:39 AM  
**To:** Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI)  
<[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam

(CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI) <[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Hello Amanda, Sarah et al.,

I appreciate everyone's assistance with these questions.

The Assistant Secretary of Health, ADM Giroir did not give any more specifics than what I have provided below. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Please provide answers in plain language.

Thank you,



Megan

---

**From:** Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI)  
<[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 9:17 AM  
**To:** Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI)  
<[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)  
<[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Hey, Adam



(b)(5)

---

**From:** Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:33 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A.

(CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI) <[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI) <[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

(b)(5)

Thank you for your patience.

Best,

*Adam Obest*

DSEP, ET3 Model

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation

443-613-7163

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Good evening CMMI colleagues,

Can you please see the email chain below and address the ASH's question related to ET3? I am coordinating responses back to submitters. Thank you in advance for your response.

Best regards,

Megan

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:19 PM  
**To:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)  
<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)  
<[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Thank you, Sarah. I look forward to hearing more from you, and

(b)(5)

Best regards,

Megan

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**From:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)  
<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D.

(CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Thanks. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

CMMI contacts on ET3 are:

(b)(5)

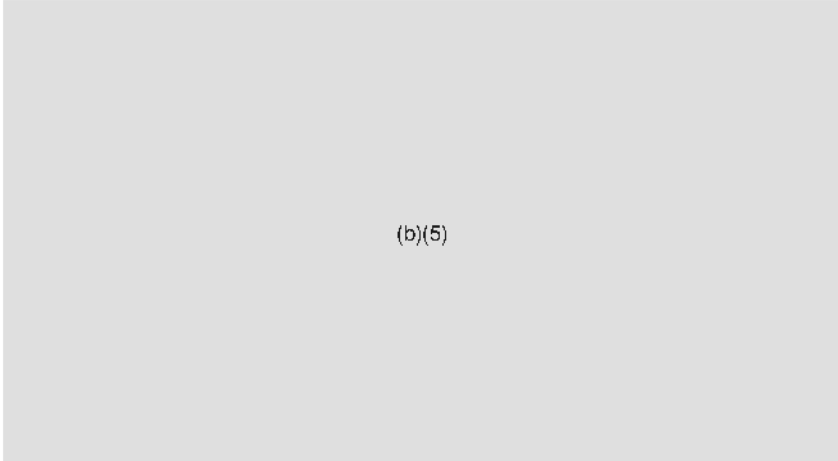
Sarah

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:07 PM  
**To:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Hello Sarah et al.,

Unfortunately, there is not any additional information.



(b)(5)

Thank you,

Megan

---

**From:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 4:56 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Hi Megan,

Is there any additional information?

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

Thanks,

Sarah

**Sarah Shirey-Losso**  
**Director, Division of Ambulatory Services**  
**HAPG/Center for Medicare/CMS**  
(410) 786-0187  
**Email: [sarah.shirey-losso@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:sarah.shirey-losso@cms.hhs.gov)**



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM)  
<[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Thank you, I look forward to the team's response.

Best regards,

Megan

---

**From:** Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM)

<[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 3:26 PM

**To:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)

<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber,

Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>;

Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM)

<[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan

R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)

<[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Forgot to add Megan!.....

Megan,

I'm looping in policy experts in HAPG on this.

Sarah/Amy/Esther, probably best to read the whole thread (b)(5)

(b)(5) Please let us know if there is anything we can do.

Thanks.

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)

<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 2:57 PM

**To:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)

<[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D.

(CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Cc:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)

<[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos,

Diana S. (CMS/CM)

<[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Another request (my third)- from the ASH

Thank you, Diane and Jason.

(b)(5)

Best Regards,

Megan Hayden

Lieutenant Commander, United States Public Health  
Service

Nurse Consultant

CMS/CCSQ/QSOG/Division of Nursing Homes

410-786-1970

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distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to  
receive the information. Unauthorized disclosure  
may result in prosecution to the full extent of the  
law.

---

**From:** Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM)  
<[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 2:47 PM  
**To:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)  
<[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan R.  
(CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
<[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos,  
Diana S. (CMS/CM)  
<[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Another request (my third)- from the  
ASH



Diana found the following...

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Page 23 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

---

**From:** Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 3/21/2020 4:56:59 AM +0000  
**To:** "Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM)" <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Brooks, John (CMS/OA)" <John.Brooks@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fwd: ACAP Proposals to Address COVID  
**Attachments:** image001.png; ATT00001.htm; ACAP COVID 19 CMS Letter 032020.pdf; ATT00002.htm

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Meg Murray <mmurray@communityplans.net>  
**Date:** March 20, 2020 at 4:10:25 PM EDT  
**To:** (b)(6) "Verma, Seema (CMS/OA)" <Seema.Verma@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>, "Wilson, Lisa J. (CMS/CCIIO)" <lisa.wilson@cms.hhs.gov>, "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)" <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>, "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>, "Pate, Randy (CMS/CCIIO)" <Randy.Pate@cms.hhs.gov>, Heather Foster <hfoster@communityplans.net>, Jennifer Babcock <jbabcock@communityplans.net>, Christine Aguiar Lynch <clynch@communityplans.net>  
**Subject: ACAP Proposals to Address COVID**

Dear Seema,

Thanks for your leadership during these very challenging times. We and our member Safety Net Health Plans are grateful for the Medicaid, Medicare, and Marketplace guidance that your teams have published. The Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) is committed to partnership with you and your colleagues as we all work to address this crisis.

After consultation with our member health plans, ACAP has identified a number of policy areas in Medicaid, Medicare, and the Marketplaces that we believe are critical to help SNHPs, our network providers and our plan enrollees when confronting COVID-19. Our comments fall under three primary themes:

1. **Extending and Sustaining Medicaid, Medicare, and Marketplace Enrollment, Coverage, and Benefits.**
2. **Reducing Administrative Burden for Safety Net Health Plans and Other Health Care Stakeholders.**
3. **Ensure Fair Payment to Plans, Providers, and States for Unprecedented and Unbudgeted Costs.**

## **Medicaid**

### **Access to Stable Medicaid Coverage for All Medicaid and CHIP Enrollees.**

- ACAP asks CMS to immediately issue guidance to states related to implementation of continuous eligibility in Medicaid. Specifically, we urge CMS to require states to
  - Cease performing eligibility redeterminations.
  - Cease use of periodic income checks.
  - Cease other eligibility assessment activities that burden enrollees as well as eligibility personnel, which would counter the objective of section 6008(b).

### **Appropriate Resourcing for COVID-19 Prevention, Testing and Treatment.**

- ACAP urges CMS to provide strong oversight of Medicaid managed care rate-setting to ensure that all plans receive rates from states that are actuarially sound, specifically with regard to services related COVID-19.
- ACAP urges CMS not to waive section 438.4(a) of Medicaid managed care rules and the underlying statute relating to actuarial soundness, including under 1115 Waivers, Healthy Adult Opportunity Waivers, or 1135 emergency waivers.
- ACAP urges CMS to provide guidance regarding mid-year Medicaid managed care rate adjustments to account for costs related to COVID-19.

### **Institute a Moratorium on the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation (MFAR).**

- ACAP urges CMS to withdraw the MFAR proposed rule (CMS-2393-P) and instead consult with the appropriate stakeholders on how to improve the financing and operation of state Medicaid programs and assess the effects of the proposed changes on Medicaid programs and beneficiaries.

### **Assure Mandatory Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).**

- ACAP asks CMS not to approve any Medicaid waiver of NEMT.
- ACAP also asks CMS not to promulgate any regulation reinterpreting the NEMT benefit as an optional, rather than required, benefit.

## **Medicare/Medicaid Dual Eligibles**

### **Cover the Increased, Unanticipated Medicare Advantage and Medicare-Medicaid Plan Costs Associated with COVID-19.**

- ACAP urges CMS to adjust MA-PD base rates and/or risk-adjusted payments to MA plans, including D-SNPs, and MMPs to account for the increased and unanticipated costs associated with COVID-19.

### **Include COVID-19 Under the “Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Policy” for the CY 2021 Star Ratings.**

- ACAP urges CMS to include the COVID-19 pandemic under the “Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances” policy for CY 2021 Star Ratings for affected plans.

### **Suspension of Audits.**

- ACAP urges CMS to suspend all MA-PD audits, including RADV audits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Permit D-SNPs and Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) to Substitute Face-to-Face Care**

### **Coordination Activities with Telephonic or Telehealth Care Management.**

- ACAP urges CMS to permit D-SNPs and MMPs to substitute face-to-face care coordination activities with telephonic or telehealth care management.

### **Regulatory Relief on Medicaid LTSS Requirements.**

- ACAP urges CMS to work with states to quickly permit regulatory relief, particularly with respect to substituting telehealth for in-person assessments, timing of assessments, and eligibility requirements.

### **Individual Market Policy**

#### **Federal Special Enrollment Period (SEP).**

- ACAP urges CMS to establish a federal, prospective SEP that is coupled with a federal backstop to ensure that issuers do not face overwhelming, unanticipated costs associated with new, mid-year enrollment.

#### **Limit Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance.**

- ACAP urges CMS to issue a temporary moratorium on STLDI plans altogether and enact a concurrent SEP to ensure that consumers are able to access comprehensive coverage and care. CMS should further act to restore such plans to their intended use of filling gaps in coverage.

#### **Coverage Terminations.**

- We urge CMS to allow issuers the ability to extend 90-day grace period for both subsidized and unsubsidized consumers, so that health plans are not forced to drop those in need from their health coverage. Likewise, we urge CMS to allow additional flexibility for consumers who are terminated from coverage due to non-payment of premiums to reinstate their coverage.

#### **Risk Adjustment & Data Validation.**

- ACAP urges CMS to delay risk adjustment and risk adjustment data validation submission deadlines given the operational delays necessitated by provider office closings and plans' real-time adjustment of operational activities in order to best respond to their enrollees and providers needs.

### **Overarching Policy**

#### **Delay Interoperability Rule, Plus Provide Funding to States and Health Plans for Interoperability Implementation.**

- ACAP urges HHS to delay implementation of the interoperability rules.
- ACAP has urged Congress to provide funding to states and health plans to implement the rules, and asks HHS to work with Congress to ensure that it is used for appropriate technical support.

If you have any questions or you would like to discuss these issues in greater depth, please contact me, Jennifer McGuigan Babcock for Medicaid policy ([jbabcock@communityplans.net](mailto:jbabcock@communityplans.net)), Christine Lynch for Medicare policy ([clynch@communityplans.net](mailto:clynch@communityplans.net)), or Heather Foster for Marketplace policy ([hfooster@communityplans.net](mailto:hfooster@communityplans.net)).

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

**Meg Murray**  
**CEO**

Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
1155 15th Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005

202.204.7509 | (b)(6) *mobile*

[www.communityplans.net](http://www.communityplans.net) | [@safetynetplans](https://twitter.com/safetynetplans)

---

**From:** Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 3/28/2020 5:26:34 PM +0000  
**To:** "Schinderle, Elizabeth (CMS/OC)" <elizabeth.schinderle@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)" <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; "Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM)" <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>; "Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)" <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA)" <Nisha.Bhat@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM)" <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM)" <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: Media: COVID/Home Health Questions

(b)(5)

On Mar 28, 2020, at 12:57 PM, Spence, Ashley N. (CMS/CCSQ) <Ashley.Spence@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

+ a few others from QSOG

---

**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 12:50 PM  
**To:** Schinderle, Elizabeth (CMS/OC) <elizabeth.schinderle@cms.hhs.gov>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>; Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Spence, Ashley N. (CMS/CCSQ) <Ashley.Spence@cms.hhs.gov>; Richards, Adam C. (CMS/CCSQ) <Adam.Richards@cms.hhs.gov>; Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ) <jeneen.iwugo@cms.hhs.gov>; Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA) <Nisha.Bhat@cms.hhs.gov>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM) <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM) <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Media: COVID/Home Health Questions

+Jason and Jeanette to see if they have anything that should be added.

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---

**From:** Schinderle, Elizabeth (CMS/OC)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 12:45 PM

**To:** Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Spence, Ashley N. (CMS/CCSQ) <Ashley.Spence@cms.hhs.gov>; Richards, Adam C. (CMS/CCSQ) <Adam.Richards@cms.hhs.gov>; Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ) <jeneen.iwugo@cms.hhs.gov>; Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA) <Nisha.Bhat@cms.hhs.gov>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Media: COVID/Home Health Questions

Good Afternoon,

Could the team kindly assist with a response to an inquiry we received from Megan McArdle, her deadline is (b)(5). I have included a start to a response (based upon a previously cleared statement). However, we wanted to check in with you all for your thoughts. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

As always, thanks for your help!

Best,  
Liz

Inquiry:

(b)(5); (b)(6)



(b)(5)

-

-  
**Elizabeth A. Schinderle** | U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 600 | Chicago, Illinois 60601 | 📞: (312) 886-0945 | 📠: (443) 380-6745 |  
✉️: [elizabeth.schinderle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.schinderle@cms.hhs.gov)

---

**From:** Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 3/18/2020 2:37:25 PM +0000  
**To:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>;  
"Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)" <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fwd: Letter from Clinical Labs Serving Nursing Facilities  
**Attachments:** NASL\_FINAL\_ClinicalLabLetterto CMS PDF.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "cynthia@nasl.org" <cynthia@nasl.org>  
**Date:** March 18, 2020 at 9:12:53 AM EDT  
**To:** "Verma, Seema (CMS/OA)" <Seema.Verma@cms.hhs.gov>, "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>, "brett.giroir@cms.hhs.gov" <brett.giroir@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject: Letter from Clinical Labs Serving Nursing Facilities**

Dear Administrator Verma,

We very much appreciate the attention that CMS is giving to the nursing facility patients and facilities in the country. The communication and information released from the agenda has been very helpful.

Attached is a letter from the clinical labs that currently provide lab testing to nursing facilities for the country. We request a phone call with you and or your staff to discuss how we are serving the nursing facilities around the country and some assistance that we need to maintain this vital network. Please see the attached letter.  
Thank you very much for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Morton  
Cynthia K. Morton, MPA  
Executive Vice President  
National Assoc. for the Support of LTC

(b)(6) mobile

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=01a0a3c1-5df5aad2-01a092fe-0cc47adb5650-0560aff84dd6ce6&u=http://www.nasl.org/> @NASLdc

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 3/7/2020 2:20:40 AM +0000  
**To:** "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)" <Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: For Review and Approval: Reactive Statement for CMS WA Surveyors/Survey

(b)(5) Any requests? (b)(5)  
(b)(5) Jean please make sure this happens

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2020, at 8:10 PM, Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Administrator –

The team has worked on a reactive holding statement and some follow-up responses for any potential media inquiries on the CMS survey team. This has been cleared by key CMS offices and OGC and (b)(5)

Please let us know if you have any edits or feedback.

Thanks,

Kelly

**DRAFT REACTIVE STATEMENT**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Page 3 redacted for the following reason:  
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Attached is the Nursing Home memo with revised guidance (changes are in red/italics). This includes suggestions from Shari and Patti Meier, but they are still reviewing the full document. We sent this to the CDC this afternoon and I just received their feedback (while on this call). I skimmed through their feedback and while they recommended some changes, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Happy to answer any questions.

Thanks,  
Evan

Evan Shulman  
Director, Division of Nursing Homes  
Quality Safety and Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

<QSO20-14. COVID-19 Nursing Homes - REVISED NIAID.docx>

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 3/11/2020 5:09:12 PM +0000  
**To:** "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: AHCA guidance vs. CMS guidance

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2020, at 12:20 PM, Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

(b)(5)

Matthew Hittle  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Desk: 202-690-6754  
Cell (b)(6)

*Deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

---

**From** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <[jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: AHCA guidance vs. CMS guidance

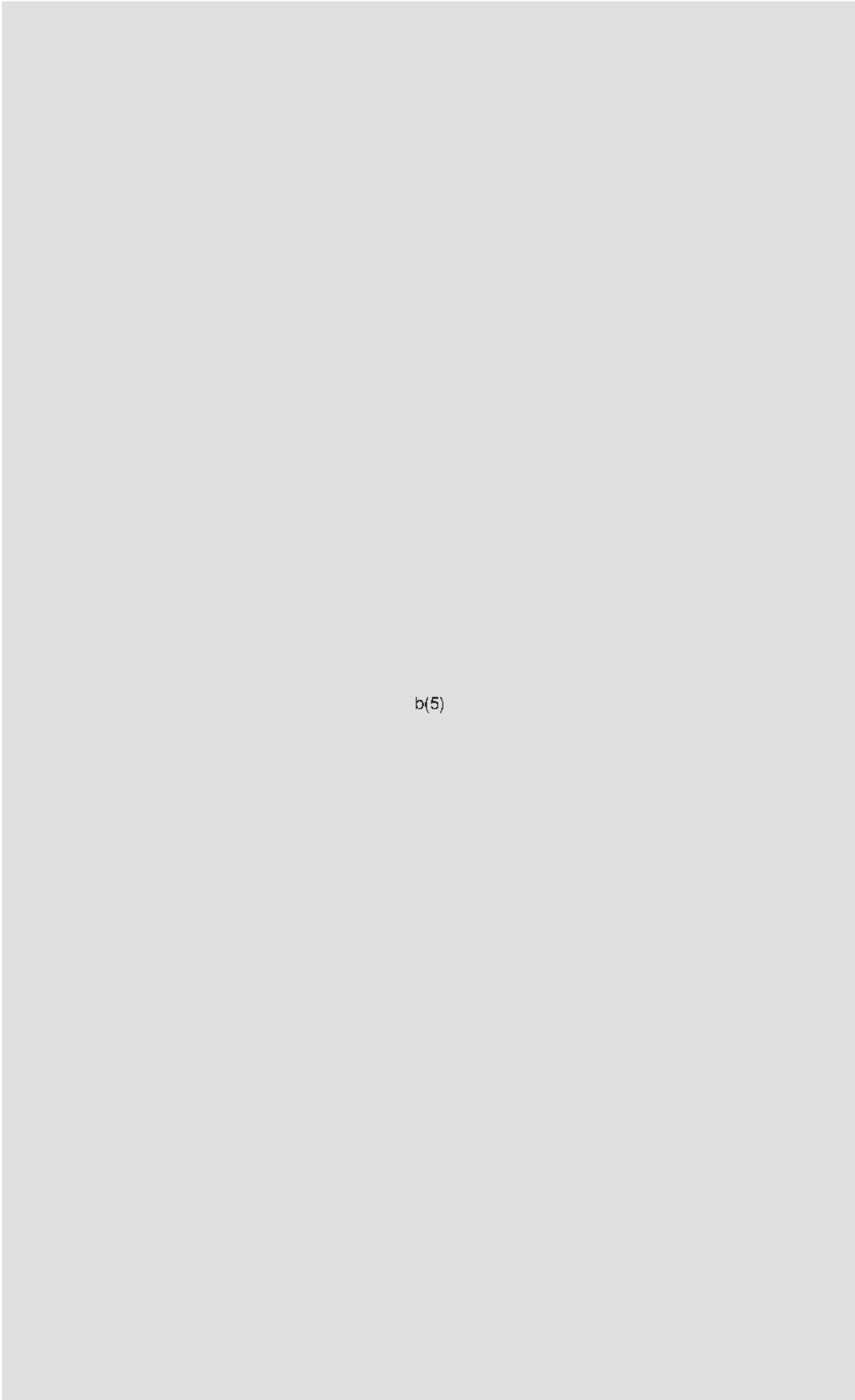
Great work. (b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2020, at 11:41 AM, Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Seema – (b)(5)

(b)(5)



b(5)



Matthew Hittle  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Desk: 202-690-6754  
Cell: (b)(6)

*Deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

<Guidance Variations 1 pager.pdf>

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 3/6/2020 5:00:29 AM +0000  
**To:** "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bell, Damian (CMS/OC)" <Damian.Bell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)" <Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: Atlanta Travel Details

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 5, 2020, at 8:18 PM, Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <[Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Seema - we are still waiting for the WH travel memo but this is what I know so far about our trip tomorrow. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

## **CDC ATLANTA VISIT** **ADMINISTRATOR'S VISIT SCHEDULE**

**Friday March 5, 2020**

(b)(5)

Page 9 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5), (b)(6)

Attendees:

- Administrator Verma
- Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director, CDC
- Alex Azar
- Brett Giroir
- GA Governor Kemp
- Surgeon General Jerome Adams
- Governor Kemp
- Senator David Perdue
- Senator Johnny Isakson
- GA Members of Congress (TBD)
- Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety
- Commissioner of Public Health
- Local health systems
- Professor at Emory University
- John Hauptert, FACHE, CEO, Grady Health System

(b)(5)

**BACKGROUND**

**3 WHITE HOUSE GOALS OF THE TRIP –**

(b)(5)

**REGIONAL HOT ISSUES**

**Immediate Jeopardies**

(b)(5)

**CMCS Draft Talking Points for ASV visit to CDC**

(b)(5)

Page 12 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

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**Appointment Title:** COVID-19 Workgroup Check-In

**Organizer:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)

**Attendees:** Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL) (Jennifer.Druckman@cms.hhs.gov); Costello, Anne Marie (CMS/CMCS); Meredith Good-Cohn (CMS/OA) (Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov); Blackstock, Sheila C. (CMS/CCSQ); Sartin, Shannon (CMS/OA); Diana Perez-Rivera (diana.perez-rivera@cms.hhs.gov); Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA); Giberson, Scott F. (CMS/OHC); Jenkins, Courtney (CMS/OC); Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA); Greene, Mary G. (CMS/CPI); Brown-Ashford, Nina C. (CMS/CMMI); Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA); Robison, Nick (CMS/OA); Schreiber, Michelle (CMS/CCSQ); Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) (Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov); Tripp, Lisa C. (CMS/CCSQ); Ortiz, Gerardo (CMS/CCSQ); Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ); Karen Aldana (CMS/OC) (karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov); Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL); Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ); Alina Czekai (CMS/CMMI) (alina.czekai@cms.hhs.gov); Karen Jackson (karen.jackson1@cms.hhs.gov); Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) (Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov); Jean Moody-Williams (jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov); OConnor, Nancy B. (CMS/OPOLE); Oelschlaeger, Allison M. (CMS/CSP) (Allison.Oelschlaeger@cms.hhs.gov); Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) (Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov); Toomey, Mimi C. (CMS/OC); Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) (elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov); Shields, Karen (CMS/CMCS); Starinsky, Melissa A. (CMS/OAGM); Ursula Gnan (CMS/OA) (Ursula.Gnan@cms.hhs.gov); Wallace, Mary H. (CMS/OC) (Mary.Wallace@cms.hhs.gov); Weber, James W. (CMS/OSSO); Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM); Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) (kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov); Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS); Jennifer Main (Jennifer.Main@cms.hhs.gov); Nicole Marcos (CMS/OL) (nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov); Skip Payne (CMS/OA) (skip.payne@cms.hhs.gov); Bobby Saxon (CMS/CCIO) (bobby.saxon@cms.hhs.gov); Kelman, Jeffrey A. (CMS/CM) (Jeffrey.Kelman@cms.hhs.gov); Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/CM) (demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov); Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA); Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ); Pace, Sandra M. (CMS/CCSQ); Kelly Caballos (Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov); Damian Bell (CMS/OC) (damian.bell@cms.hhs.gov); Boulanger, Jennifer L. (CMS) (Jennifer.Boulanger@cms.hhs.gov); Randy Pate (randy.pate@cms.hhs.gov); Jeff Wu (Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov); Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM); Calder Lynch (CMS/OA) (calder.lynch@cms.hhs.gov); Peter Nelson (CMS/OA) (peter.nelson@cms.hhs.gov); Couch, Marion (CMS/OA); Johnathan Monroe (CMS/OC) (johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov); Meier, Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO); Anderson, Cyndy (CMS/CCSQ); Dinicola, Kelly A. (CMS/OC); Richards, Barbara K. (CMS/CMCS); Mack, Elizabeth A. (CMS/OSSO); Heard, Derrick L. (CMS/OAGM); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) (Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov); Magnotta, David M. (CMS/OHC); Zajac, Stephanie (CMS/OC); Smith, Linda D. (CMS/CCSQ); Alexander, Alec (CMS/OA); George Mills (george.mills@cms.hhs.gov); Hart, Bradley (CMS/CPI); Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA); Miller, Ruth A. (CMS/OEA) (Ruth.Miller@cms.hhs.gov); Claggett, Karyn E. (CMS/CM); Grant, Jeffrey (CMS/CCIO); Engelhardt, Tim (CMS/FCHCO) (Tim.Engelhardt@cms.hhs.gov); Tasnim, Misu (CMS/OA); Black, Nicole

L. (CMS/CMCS); Jenny, Brenna (HHS/OGC); Walen, Alyssa (CMS/OC); Christina S. Ritter (CMS/CM) (Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov); Slade, James (CMS/OHI); Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ); Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ); Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ); IngJye.Cheng@CMS.hhs.gov; Uebersax, Julie (CMS/CM); Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI); Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI); Gelzer, Heidi J. (CMS/OA); Armstead, Andrea E. (CMS/OA); Flaherty, Leslie W. (CMS/OA); Olshan, Shana W. (CMS/OIT); Lewis, Carissa (CMS/OL); Amy K. Hennessy (CMS/OC) (Amy.Hennessy@cms.hhs.gov); Shaham, Lauren (CMS/OC); Gutowski, Walter A. (CMS/OC); Franklin, Julie G. (CMS/OC); Venson, Shelby (CMS/OC); Brauer, Randy S. (CMS/OHI); Syrek Jensen, Tamara S. (CMS/CCSQ); McGann, Paul E. (CMS/CCSQ); Monteiro, Anita (CMS/CCSQ); Scott, John A. (CMS/CM); CMS VTC; (b)(6); CMS Administrator; Chapman, Andrea (CMS/OA); Bellios, Toula (CMS/OA); Cohen, Melissa B. (CMS/OIT); Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC); Pedneau, Emily S. (CMS/CCIO); Chalick-Kaplan, Beth (CMS/CMMI)

**Location:** (b)(6)  
**Start Time:** 3/31/2020 10:00:00 PM +0000  
**End Time:** 3/31/2020 10:30:00 PM +0000  
**Reminder Time:** N/A  
**Reminder Set:** false  
**Duration:** 30 minutes  
**Is Recurring:** false  
**Reccurance Type:** Weekly  
**Reccurance Pattern:** every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
**Response Status:** 3  
**Busy Status:** Busy  
**Attachments:** Disaster Ver Plan Addendum 3 26 20.docx; COVID-19 Uninsured Group Simplified Application\_3 31 20.docx; CMCSRequest for ClearanceWAandVAAdminClaiming 3-30-20 CL.docx; CMCScoverNoteverificationplansimplifiedapplication3-30-20.docx; CMS-9115-F Implementation Timeline COVID-19\_Recommendation\_v2c.docx; Agenda for COVID-19 CMS Meeting\_ April 1.docx; OA Tracker 03.31.pdf

Access Information

1. Please call the following number:  
(b)(6)
2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

Your WebEx Meeting Number: (b)(6)



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**CC:** "Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; "Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI)" <Charles.Schalm@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI)" <Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov>

**Attendees:** Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL) (Jennifer.Druckman@cms.hhs.gov); Costello, Anne Marie (CMS/CMCS); Meredith Good-Cohn (CMS/OA) (Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov); Blackstock, Sheila C. (CMS/CCSQ); Sartin, Shannon (CMS/OA); Diana Perez-Rivera (diana.perez-rivera@cms.hhs.gov); Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA); Giberson, Scott F. (CMS/OHC); Jenkins, Courtney (CMS/OC); Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA); Greene, Mary G. (CMS/CPI); Brown-Ashford, Nina C. (CMS/CMMI); Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA); Robison, Nick (CMS/OA); Schreiber, Michelle (CMS/CCSQ); Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) (Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov); Tripp, Lisa C. (CMS/CCSQ); Ortiz, Gerardo (CMS/CCSQ); Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ); Karen Aldana (CMS/OC) (karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov); Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL); Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ); Alina Czekai (CMS/CMMI) (alina.czekai@cms.hhs.gov); Karen Jackson (karen.jackson1@cms.hhs.gov); Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) (Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov); Jean Moody-Williams (jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov); OConnor, Nancy B. (CMS/OPOLE); Oelschlaeger, Allison M. (CMS/CSP) (Allison.Oelschlaeger@cms.hhs.gov); Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) (Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov); Toomey, Mimi C. (CMS/OC); Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) (elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov); Shields, Karen (CMS/CMCS); Starinsky, Melissa A. (CMS/OAGM); Ursula Gnan (CMS/OA) (Ursula.Gnan@cms.hhs.gov); Wallace, Mary H. (CMS/OC) (Mary.Wallace@cms.hhs.gov); Weber, James W. (CMS/OSSO); Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM); Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) (kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov); Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS); Jennifer Main (Jennifer.Main@cms.hhs.gov); Nicole Marcos (CMS/OL) (nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov); Skip Payne (CMS/OA) (skip.payne@cms.hhs.gov); Bobby Saxon (CMS/CCIIO) (bobby.saxon@cms.hhs.gov); Kelman, Jeffrey A. (CMS/CM) (Jeffrey.Kelman@cms.hhs.gov); Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/CM) (demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov); Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA); Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ); Pace, Sandra M. (CMS/CCSQ); Kelly Caballos (Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov); Damian Bell (CMS/OC) (damian.bell@cms.hhs.gov); Boulanger, Jennifer L. (CMS) (Jennifer.Boulanger@cms.hhs.gov); Randy Pate (randy.pate@cms.hhs.gov); Jeff Wu (Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov); Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM); Calder Lynch (CMS/OA) (calder.lynch@cms.hhs.gov); Peter Nelson (CMS/OA) (peter.nelson@cms.hhs.gov); Couch, Marion (CMS/OA); Johnathan Monroe (CMS/OC) (johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov); Meier, Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO); Anderson, Cyndy (CMS/CCSQ); Dinicolo, Kelly A. (CMS/OC); Richards, Barbara K. (CMS/CMCS); Mack, Elizabeth A. (CMS/OSSO); Heard, Derrick L. (CMS/OAGM); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) (Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov); Magnotta, David M. (CMS/OHC); Zajac, Stephanie (CMS/OC); Smith, Linda D. (CMS/CCSQ); Alexander, Alec (CMS/OA); George Mills

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**Location:** (b)(6)  
**Start Time:** 3/31/2020 10:00:00 PM +0000  
**End Time:** 3/31/2020 10:30:00 PM +0000  
**Duration:** 30 minutes  
**Reminder Time:** 3/31/2020 10:00:00 PM +0000  
**Is Recurring:** false  
**Recurrence Type:** Weekly  
**Recurrence Pattern:** every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
**Response Status:** 5  
**Busy Status:** Tentative  
**Attachments:** Disaster Ver Plan Addendum 3 26 20.docx; COVID-19 Uninsured Group Simplified Application\_3 31 20.docx; CMCSRequest for ClearanceWAandVAAdminClaiming 3-30-20 CL.docx; CMCS Cover Note verification plansimplifiedapplication3-30-20.docx; CMS-9115-F Implementation Timeline COVID-19\_Recommendation\_v2c.docx; Agenda for COVID-19 CMS Meeting\_ April 1.docx; OA Tracker 03.31.pdf

Access Information

1. Please call the following number:

WebEx: (b)(6)

2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

Your WebEx Meeting Number (b)(6)

**Meeting Title:** COVID-19 Workgroup Check-In

**From:** "Perez-Rivera, Diana (CMS/OA)" <Diana.Perez-Rivera@cms.hhs.gov>

**Sent:** 4/6/2020 5:20:56 PM +0000

**To:** CMS Administrator <CMSAdministrator@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA)" <Nisha.Bhat@cms.hhs.gov>; "Nelson, Peter (CMS/OA)" <Peter.Nelson@cms.hhs.gov>; "Giberson, Scott F. (CMS/OHC)" <Scott.Giberson@cms.hhs.gov>; "Jenkins, Courtney (CMS/OC)" <Courtney.Jenkins@cms.hhs.gov>; "Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA)" <Thomas.Corry@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA)" <Anna.Bonelli@cms.hhs.gov>; "Uppal, Rajiv (CMS/OIT)" <Rajiv.Uppal@cms.hhs.gov>; CMS VTC <VTC@cms.hhs.gov>; "Toomey, Mimi C. (CMS/OC)" <Mimi.Toomey@cms.hhs.gov>; "Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)" <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tripp, Lisa C. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Lisa.Tripp@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ortiz, Gerardo (CMS/CCSQ)" <Gerardo.Ortiz@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ)" <Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov>; "Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC)" <Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov>; "Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL)" <Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brauer, Randy S. (CMS/OHI)" <Randy.Brauer@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA)" <Kathleen.Cantwell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Clybourn, Olen D. (CMS/OSORA)" <Olen.Clybourn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Costello, Anne Marie (CMS/CMCS)" <AnneMarie.Costello@cms.hhs.gov>; "Dill, Gregory R. (CMS/OPOLE)" <Gregory.Dill@cms.hhs.gov>; "Finch, Wanda (CMS/OMH)" <Wanda.Finch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Gillespie, Craig (CMS/OHC)" <craig.gillespie@cms.hhs.gov>; "Grant, Jeffrey (CMS/CCIO)" <jeffrey.grant1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hammarlund, John T. (CMS/OPOLE)" <john.hammarlund@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hart, Bradley (CMS/OPOLE)" <Bradley.Hart@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hurd, Raymond (CMS/OPOLE)" <Raymond.Hurd@cms.hhs.gov>; "Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ)" <jeneen.iwugo@cms.hhs.gov>; "Jackson, Karen E. (CMS/OA)" <karen.jackson1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Lipp, Michael (CMS/CMMI)" <Michael.Lipp@cms.hhs.gov>; "Mills, George G. (CMS/CPI)" <george.mills@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "OConnor, Nancy B. (CMS/OPOLE)" <Nancy.OConnor@cms.hhs.gov>; "Oelschlaeger, Allison M. (CMS/OEDA)" <Allison.Oelschlaeger@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pinder, Anita A. (CMS/OEOCR)" <Anita.Pinder@cms.hhs.gov>; "Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM)" <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shatto, Andrew E. (CMS/OEDA)" <Andrew.Shatto@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shields, Karen (CMS/CMCS)" <Karen.Shields1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)" <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Starinsky, Melissa A. (CMS/OAGM)" <Melissa.Starinsky1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tabé-Bedward, Arrah A. (CMS/CMMI)" <arrah.tabebeward@cms.hhs.gov>; "Vitolo, Sara (CMS/FCHCO)" <Sara.Vitolo@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wallace, Mary H. (CMS/OC)" <Mary.Wallace@cms.hhs.gov>; "Weber, James W. (CMS/OSSO)" <James.Weber@cms.hhs.gov>; "Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM)" <Megan.Worstell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Gelzer, Heidi J. (CMS/OA)" <heidi.gelzer@cms.hhs.gov>; "Grayson, April (CMS/OA)"

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<Skip.Payne@cms.hhs.gov>; "Saxon, Bobby (CMS/CCIO)"  
<Bobby.Saxon@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kelman, Jeffrey A. (CMS/CM)"  
<Jeffrey.Kelman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)"  
<Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)"  
<Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)"  
<Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bell, Damian (CMS/OC)"  
<Damian.Bell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Boulanger, Jennifer L. (CMS/OL)"  
<Jennifer.Boulanger@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pate, Randy (CMS/CCIO)"  
<Randy.Pate@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIO)"  
<Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; "Schreiber, Michelle (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Michelle.Schreiber@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)"  
<Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Alexander, Alec (CMS/OA)"  
<Alec.Alexander@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bassano, Amy (CMS/CMMI)"  
<amy.bassano@cms.hhs.gov>; "Smith, Brad (CMS/OA)"  
<Brad.Smith@cms.hhs.gov>; "Couch, Marion (CMS/OA)"  
<Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)"  
<Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>; "LoPiccolo, Maria (CMS/OC)"  
<Maria.LoPiccolo@cms.hhs.gov>; "Meier, Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO)"  
<Patricia.Meier@cms.hhs.gov>; "Anderson, Cyndy (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Cyndy.Anderson@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hoffmann, George C. (CMS/OIT)"  
<George.Hoffmann@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hogle, Mark P. (CMS/OIT)"  
<Mark.Hogle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Mack, Elizabeth A. (CMS/OSSO)"  
<Elizabeth.Mack@cms.hhs.gov>; "Magnotta, David M. (CMS/OHC)"  
<David.Magnotta@cms.hhs.gov>; "Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)"  
<Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>; "Heard, Derrick L. (CMS/OAGM)"  
<Derrick.Heard@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richards, Barbara K. (CMS/CMCS)"  
<Barbara.Richards@cms.hhs.gov>; "Dinicolo, Kelly A. (CMS/OC)"  
<Kelly.Dinicolo@cms.hhs.gov>; "Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL)"  
<Jennifer.Druckman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI)"  
<Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov>; "Zajac, Stephanie (CMS/OC)"  
<Stephanie.Zajac@cms.hhs.gov>; "Smith, Linda D. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Linda.Smith@cms.hhs.gov>; "Claggett, Karyn E. (CMS/CM)"  
<Karyn.Claggett@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Engelhardt, Tim (CMS/FCHCO)"  
<Tim.Engelhardt@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tasnim, Misu (CMS/OA)"  
<Misu.Tasnim@cms.hhs.gov>; "Uebersax, Julie (CMS/CM)"  
<Julie.Uebersax@cms.hhs.gov>; "Walen, Alyssa (CMS/OC)"  
<Alyssa.Walen@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ritter, Christina S. (CMS/CMMI)"  
<Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Slade, James (CMS/OHI)"  
<James.Slade@cms.hhs.gov>; "Greene, Mary G. (CMS/CPI)"  
<Mary.Greene1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Armstead, Andrea E. (CMS/OA)"  
<Andrea.Armstead@cms.hhs.gov>; "Flaherty, Leslie W. (CMS/OA)"  
<Leslie.Flaherty@cms.hhs.gov>; "Blackstock, Sheila C. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Sheila.Blackstock1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Olshan, Shana W. (CMS/OIT)"  
<Shana.Olshan@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cohen, Melissa B. (CMS/OIT)"  
<Melissa.Cohen@cms.hhs.gov>; "Conover, Lillian A. (CMS/CMCS)"  
<Lillian.Conover@cms.hhs.gov>; "Syrek Jensen, Tamara S.  
(CMS/CCSQ)" <tamara.syrekjensen@cms.hhs.gov>; "McGann, Paul E.  
(CMS/CCSQ)" <Paul.McGann@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monteiro, Anita

---

(CMS/CCSQ)" <anita.monteiro@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shaham, Lauren (CMS/OC)" <Lauren.Shaham1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Scott, John A. (CMS/CM)" <John.Scott@cms.hhs.gov>; "Butler, Susie E. (CMS/OC)" <Susie.Butler@cms.hhs.gov>; "Costello, Stefanie (CMS/OC)" <Stefanie.Costello@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bellios, Toulia (CMS/OA)" <Toulia.Bellios@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chapman, Andrea (CMS/OA)" <Andrea.Chapman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brown-Ashford, Nina C. (CMS/CMMI)" <Nina.Brown-Ashford@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pedneau, Emily S. (CMS/CCIO)" <Emily.Pedneau@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chalick-Kaplan, Beth (CMS/CMMI)" <Beth.Chalick-Kaplan@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI)" <Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov>; "Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI)" <Charles.Schalm@cms.hhs.gov>; "Lewis, Carissa (CMS/OL)" <Carissa.Lewis@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC)" <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; "James, Merri Ellen (CMS/CPI)" <merriellen.james@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hodges, Kevin (CMS/OEDA)" <Kevin.Hodges@cms.hhs.gov>; "Apostle, Keri (CMS/OEDA)" <Keri.Apostle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bartee, Stephanie A. (CMS/OEDA)" <Stephanie.Bartee@cms.hhs.gov>; "Quinn, Shalon C. (CMS/CCSQ)" <shalon.quinn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Spitalnic, Paul I. (CMS/OACT)" <paul.spitalnic@cms.hhs.gov>

**CC:**

**Attendees:**

"Garcia, Tamyra (CMS/CCSQ)" <Tamyra.Garcia@cms.hhs.gov>  
CMS Administrator; (b)(6) Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA); Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA); Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA); Nelson, Peter (CMS/OA); Giberson, Scott F. (CMS/OHC); Jenkins, Courtney (CMS/OC); Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA); Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA); Uppal, Rajiv (CMS/OIT); CMS VTC; Toomey, Mimi C. (CMS/OC); Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM); Tripp, Lisa C. (CMS/CCSQ); Ortiz, Gerardo (CMS/CCSQ); Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ); Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC); Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL); Brauer, Randy S. (CMS/OHI); Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA); Clybourn, Olen D. (CMS/OSORA); Costello, Anne Marie (CMS/CMCS); Dill, Gregory R. (CMS/OPOLE); Finch, Wanda (CMS/OMH); Gillespie, Craig (CMS/OHC); Grant, Jeffrey (CMS/CCIO); Hammarlund, John T. (CMS/OPOLE); Hart, Bradley (CMS/CPI); Hurd, Raymond (CMS/OPOLE); Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ); Jackson, Karen E. (CMS/OA); Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ); Lipp, Michael (CMS/CMMI); Mills, George G. (CMS/CPI); Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ); OConnor, Nancy B. (CMS/OPOLE); Oelschlaeger, Allison M. (CMS/OEDA); Pinder, Anita A. (CMS/OEOCR); Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM); Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM); Shatto, Andrew E. (CMS/OEDA); Shields, Karen (CMS/CMCS); Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA); Starinsky, Melissa A. (CMS/OAGM); Tabe-Bedward, Arrah A. (CMS/CMMI); Vitolo, Sara (CMS/FCHCO); Wallace, Mary H. (CMS/OC); Weber, James W. (CMS/OSSO); Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM); Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA); Gelzer, Heidi J. (CMS/OA); Grayson, April (CMS/OA); Hitchcock, Angela N. (CMS/OA); Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS); Main, Jennifer E. (CMS/OA); Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL); Payne, Skip (CMS/OA); Saxon, Bobby (CMS/CCIO); Kelman, Jeffrey A. (CMS/CM); Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA); Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ); Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM); Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC); Bell, Damian (CMS/OC); Boulanger, Jennifer L. (CMS/OL); Pate, Randy (CMS/CCIO); Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIO); Schreiber, Michelle (CMS/CCSQ); Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM); Alexander, Alec (CMS/OA); Bassano, Amy (CMS/CMMI); Smith, Brad (CMS/OA); Couch, Marion (CMS/OA); Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC); LoPiccolo, Maria (CMS/OC); Meier,

Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO); Anderson, Cyndy (CMS/CCSQ); Hoffmann, George C. (CMS/OIT); Hogle, Mark P. (CMS/OIT); Mack, Elizabeth A. (CMS/OSSO); Magnotta, David M. (CMS/OHC); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Heard, Derrick L. (CMS/OAGM); Richards, Barbara K. (CMS/CMCS); Dinicolo, Kelly A. (CMS/OC); Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL); Alina Czekai (CMS/CMMI) (alina.czekai@cms.hhs.gov); Zajac, Stephanie (CMS/OC); Smith, Linda D. (CMS/CCSQ); Claggett, Karyn E. (CMS/CM); Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ); Engelhardt, Tim (CMS/FCHCO) (Tim.Engelhardt@cms.hhs.gov); Tasnim, Misu (CMS/OA); Uebersax, Julie (CMS/CM); Walen, Alyssa (CMS/OC); Christina S. Ritter (CMS/CM) (Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov); Slade, James (CMS/OHI); Greene, Mary G. (CMS/CPI); Armstead, Andrea E. (CMS/OA); Flaherty, Leslie W. (CMS/OA); Blackstock, Sheila C. (CMS/CCSQ); Olshan, Shana W. (CMS/OIT); Cohen, Melissa B. (CMS/OIT); Conover, Lillian A. (CMS/CMCS); Syrek Jensen, Tamara S. (CMS/CCSQ); McGann, Paul E. (CMS/CCSQ); Monteiro, Anita (CMS/CCSQ); Shaham, Lauren (CMS/OC); Scott, John A. (CMS/CM); Butler, Susie E. (CMS/OC); Costello, Stefanie (CMS/OC); Bellios, Toulia (CMS/OA); Chapman, Andrea (CMS/OA); Brown-Ashford, Nina C. (CMS/CMMI); Pedneau, Emily S. (CMS/CCIO); Chalick-Kaplan, Beth (CMS/CMMI); Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ); Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI); Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI); Lewis, Carissa (CMS/OL); Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC); James, Merri Ellen (CMS/CPI); Hodges, Kevin (CMS/OEDA); Apostle, Keri (CMS/OEDA); Barte, Stephanie A. (CMS/OEDA); Garcia, Tamyra (CMS/CCSQ); Quinn, Shalon C. (CMS/CCSQ); Spitalnic, Paul I. (CMS/OACT)

**Location:** (b)(6)  
**Start Time:** 4/6/2020 5:30:00 PM +0000  
**End Time:** 4/6/2020 6:25:00 PM +0000  
**Duration:** 55 minutes  
**Reminder Time:** 4/6/2020 5:30:00 PM +0000  
**Is Recurring:** false  
**Recurrence Type:** Weekly  
**Recurrence Pattern:** every Monday from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM  
**Response Status:** 5  
**Busy Status:** Tentative  
**Attachments:** Agenda for COVID-19 CMS Meeting\_ April 6\_revised.docx; 1\_3 Day OC Look Ahead for 4.6-4.8 v1.docx; 2\_Resiliency Taskforce Daily Report040520clean.docx; 3\_ICF IID Waiver Request 040620.docx; 4\_Metrics for Consideration - Weekly COVID-19 Report.pdf; 5\_Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey COVID-19 Data Collection.docx; 6\_COVID-QRS and Marketplace Quality Initiatives Memo.docx; 7\_Applicability of diagnoses from telehealth services for risk adjustment....docx; 8\_COVID-19 Memo Long-term Improper Payment Measures 4-3-2020 clean ofm2 ab....docx; Relief Fund Update - 2020-04-05.pptx

**DO NOT FORWARD THIS INVITATION.**

Access Information

1. Please call the following number:

WebEx: (b)(6)

2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

Your WebEx Meeting Number: (b)(6)



---

**From:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 4/6/2020 1:10:31 AM +0000  
**To:** "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)" <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)"  
<Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIIO)"  
<Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; "Couch, Marion (CMS/OA)"  
<Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)"  
<Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)"  
<Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Bell, Damian (CMS/OC)" <Damian.Bell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL)" <Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: WH Gov Call Tomorrow  
**Attachments:** Medicare Hospital Flexibility 4-2 v6abbreviated.pptx; WH Governors Call 4.6 for ASV\_BB.docx

Updated version with an abbreviated power point. Both the word and power point document are attached.

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---

**From:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 9:00 PM  
**To:** Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA) <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov> (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIIO) <Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; Couch, Marion (CMS/OA) <Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Damian Bell (CMS/OC) (damian.bell@cms.hhs.gov) <damian.bell@cms.hhs.gov>; 'Nicole Marcos (CMS/OL) (nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov)' <nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; David R. Wright (CMS/CCSQ) (David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov); Shari Ling (CMS/CCSQ) (Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; Meredith Good-Cohn (CMS/OA) (Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: WH Gov Call (b)(5)

Seema,

Please see attached for the word doc and power point with information from the team based on the topics you said you

(b)(5)  
(b)(5) I have added Damian onto this email so (b)(5)  
(b)(5). I have also attached the combined power point with slides from David and Shari. Shari is looking (b)(5)  
(b)(5)

Thanks,

Brady

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---

**From:** Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA) <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 2:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIIO) <Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; Couch, Marion (CMS/OA) <Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: WH Gov Call (b)(5)

Here are some thoughts below - others can add and weigh in.

(b)(5)

Page 25 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 1:16 PM  
**To:** Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <[Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIO) <[Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov)>; Couch, Marion (CMS/OA) <[Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA) <[Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: WH Gov Call (b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <[Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** WH Gov Call (b)(5)

Seema,

The WH has you slated to participate in (b)(5) Governor call (b)(5)  
(b)(5) Please let me know what you would like to take with you. Thanks.

- Administrator Verma provides an update on support to hospitals and the uninsured.

Meredith Good-Cohn

Senior Advisor

Office of the Administrator

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Cell: (b)(6)

[Meredith.good-cohn@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meredith.good-cohn@cms.hhs.gov)

***Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication***

---

**From:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 3:38:26 AM +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Meier, Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO)" <Patricia.Meier@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Nursing Home Action Recommendations  
**Attachments:** Actions to Control COVID-19 Transmission in Nursing Homes.1137pm033020.docx

Apologies, adding Patti and also attaching a CLEAN version. Last attachment was redlined.

---

**From:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 11:34 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <matthew.hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Nursing Home Action Recommendations  
**Importance:** High

Seema - Per your request, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Let us know if you need anything more. Thanks! Team NH

Kimberly Brandt  
Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations and Policy  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

7500 Security Boulevard

Baltimore, MD 21244

410/786-3151

[Kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)

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---

**From:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 3:33:53 AM +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Nursing Home Action Recommendations  
**Attachments:** Actions to Control COVID-19 Transmission in Nursing Homes (5)-clean.docx

Seema - Per your request, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Let us know if you need anything more. Thanks! Team NH

Kimberly Brandt  
Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations and Policy  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244  
410/786-3151  
[Kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)

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---

**From:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 1:59:20 PM +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**CC:** "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC)" <Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA)" <Thomas.Corry@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bell, Damian (CMS/OC)" <Damian.Bell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: REVISED nursing home action recommendations  
We just got off a call with cdc on this and we have another at 11. Working on exactly what you asked for and (b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 31, 2020, at 9:56 AM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:57 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** REVISED nursing home action recommendations  
**Importance:** High

Seema – this newest version incorporates an additional bullet from CDC

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Matthew Hittle  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Desk: 202-690-6754  
Cell: (b)(6)

*Deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

---

**From:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 3/15/2020 3:50:41 PM +0000  
**To:** "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)" <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**CC:** "Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA)" <Anna.Bonelli@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)" <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Weekend State and Medicaid COVID Activity

+ Carol

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---

**From:** Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA) <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov >  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:50 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA) <Anna.Bonelli@cms.hhs.gov>; Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov >  
**Subject:** Weekend State and Medicaid COVID Activity

**Pre-Decisional and Deliberative Communication**

Seema,

We'll report these up but I wanted to make sure you had some visibility into the state requests that have been filtering in over the weekend. We've had activity on both the 1115 and 1135 front. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

## **State requests:**

### **1135 Waiver Activity**

**Florida** submitted an 1135 waiver request on Friday night.

- The request includes:
  - Blanket waiver of prior authorization
  - Waiver of PASSR (nursing home pre-admission screening)
  - Ability to postpone fair hearings
  - Waiver of screening requirements for provider enrollment

(b)(5)

**Rhode Island** has submitted a letter requesting to delay renewals and extend timelines for fair hearings or conducting them virtually. (b)(5) needed.

### **1115 Waiver Activity**

**Florida** also submitted a request for 1115 authority. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Request includes:

- Extend annual certification periods
- Allow for a simplified Medicaid application process with self-attestation
- Waive cost sharing requirements for both FFS and managed care recipients
- Exceed service limits (hospital days, physician visits, etc.)
- Expand telemedicine
- Expand provider qualifications - (e.g., enrolling first responders to collect specimens for testing)
- Adopt/expand hospital presumptive eligibility determinations to additional

groups covered under the SPA

- o Expand eligibility for the uninsured just for testing and treatment of COVID-19

We also received a comprehensive 1115 request from **Colorado**, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

- o Continued eligibility for all Medicaid and CHIP enrollees with no redetermination for period of demo (6 months beyond end of the public health emergency (PHE))
- o Extend Medicaid coverage for uninsured for COVID and related testing and treatment, with no income, asset, or residency restrictions. Accept self-attestation for all eligibility criteria.
- o Use Medicaid to pay for housing for the homeless
- o Various other flexibilities related to level of care requirements, assessments, reimbursement, telemedicine, provider enrollment
- o No application of budget neutrality requirements
- o 100% FMAP for all related costs, including housing for homeless (b)(5)

(b)(5)

**Tennessee** has also expressed a verbal interest in submitting an 1115 for authority to pay for testing and treatment for uninsured COVID patients. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

## Other

**Washington** SMD has reached out regarding HIPAA flexibilities related to virtual mental health visits. They are working with ONC on this apparently. Also received outreach from SAMSHA urging us to help. I looped in Kim (b)(5)

--

## Calder Lynch

Deputy Administrator and Director

CMS / Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services

Office: (202) 690-7428

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"Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)"  
<Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI)"  
<Charles.Schalm@cms.hhs.gov>; "Corbin, Angela T. (CMS/CMCS)"  
<Angela.Corbin@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hylton, Yvonne (CMS/OC)"  
<Yvonne.Hylton@cms.hhs.gov>; "Greene, Mary G. (CMS/CPI)"  
<Mary.Greene1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM)"  
<Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov>; "Zale, Amy M. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Amy.Zale@cms.hhs.gov>; "Van Brakle, Regina S. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Regina.VanBrakle@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)  
CMS Administrator <CMSAdministrator@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pedneau, Emily  
S. (CMS/CCIO)" <Emily.Pedneau@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chalick-Kaplan, Beth  
(CMS/CMMI)" <Beth.Chalick-Kaplan@cms.hhs.gov>

**Start Time:** 4/1/2020 2:30:00 PM +0000  
**End Time:** 4/1/2020 4:00:00 PM +0000  
**Reminder Time:** 4/1/2020 2:30:00 PM +0000  
**Is Recurring:** false  
**Recurrence Type:** Weekly  
**Busy Status:** Tentative  
**Attachments:** Disaster Ver Plan Addendum 3 26 20.docx; COVID-19 Uninsured Group Simplified Application\_3 31 20.docx; CMCSRequest for ClearanceWAandVAAdminClaiming 3-30-20 CL.docx; CMCScoverNoteverificationplansimplifiedapplication3-30-20.docx; CMS-9115-F Implementation Timeline COVID-19\_Recommendation\_v2c.docx; Agenda for COVID-19 CMS Meeting\_ April 1.docx; CMS Dear Clinician Letter FINAL 3 27 2020.docx; DRAFT\_FINAL v3\_03.26.20\_CMS recommendations\_Non-emergent Elective Treatm...\_docx; COVID-19 Memo Long-term Improper Payment Measures 3-30-2020 (clean).docx; 3 Day Look Ahead for 4.1 -4.3 v1.docx; COVID Data Plan.docx

**DO NOT FORWARD THIS INVITATION.**

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 4/2/2020 1:43:11 AM +0000  
**To:** "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC)" <Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov>; "Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS)" <Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)" <Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC)" <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; "Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC)" <Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov>; "Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL)" <Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6:30 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS

Where did we land on this?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2020, at 9:13 PM, Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Brady texted me the below- just tried calling you- call me to chat

My internet is messed up in the Humphrey building so I can't get Elaine's latest email are you on it? (b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2020, at 8:09 PM, Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC) <Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Hi Brady – wanted to re-up this one for you – see bold type font.

Thank you!  
Elaine

---

**From:** Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:10 PM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC) <johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>; Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC) <karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <catherine.howden@cms.hhs.gov>; Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6:30 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS  
**Importance:** High

Hi Brady –

I just spoke with David Wright and Evan Shulman in CCSQ.

We reviewed the following response together, using the regulations, and this is the correct language:

(b)(5)

Please let us know if we're good to send to The Hill and CNN.

Thanks!  
Elaine

---

**From:** Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:34 PM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC) <[karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[catherine.howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:catherine.howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC) <[johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov)>; Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS

Thanks Brady – we will make that correction.

---

**From:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:33 PM  
**To:** Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC) <[Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC) <[Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC) <[Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov)>; Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>



**Subject:** RE: URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS

(b)(5)

*Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

---

**From:** Kanellis, Elaine (CMS/OC) <[Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Elaine.Kanellis@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:30 PM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC) <[Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC) <[Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov)>; Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** URGENT FOR BRADY'S REVIEW ASAP by 6 p.m. - RESPONSES TO CNN AND THE HILL ON NUMBER OF NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS  
**Importance:** High

Hi Brady –

Nicole worked with David Wright and his team to answer your questions on our proposed response to CNN and The Hill about COVID-19 Cases in Nursing homes and inspections.

**Flagging that the Hill is on deadline for 5 p.m. today and CNN has no specified deadline.**

**The final response needing review is highlighted in yellow at the end of this note. For context**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thank you-  
Elaine

**INQUIRY FROM CNN:** From the CMS part of things, we were hoping to get a total number of nursing homes that have notified your agency that have a patient with an infectious disease, in this case, COVID-19. We'd like to know comparison data. Like this week compared to last week and the week before that. How many nursing homes is CMS currently inspecting as a result of COVID-19?

**INQUIRY FROM THE HILL**

The CDC says it is aware of more than 400 cases of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in the U.S., but that it doesn't receive the names of these facilities. Is CMS tracking this information? If so, can you release it? If it isn't tracking this information, why not?

**FOR CONTEXT –**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: IFC FAQs

Hi all,

I've made some edits in the attached FAQ document and tried to answer some of Demetrios' questions below (in green). There are several others are probably in a better position to answer.

(b)(5)

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**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 12:33 PM  
**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Thanks.

(b)(5)

Page 6 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

Page 7 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Edits and questions attached.

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**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:41 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Here's a new version with (b)(5) section. Thanks.

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 5:18 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** IFC FAQs

Here are the IFC FAQs for your review. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Page 10 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)



Page 11 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thoughts welcome.

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:27 PM

**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL) <[Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** next bill

(b)(5)

**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 4:50:32 AM +0000  
**To:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Industry confusion - Happy to discuss if the below is not clear [DEN-US\_Active.FID17477863]

thanks

---

**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 8:41 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov >  
**Subject:** RE: Industry confusion - Happy to discuss if the below is not clear [DEN-US\_Active.FID17477863]

(b)(5)

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---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 8:39 PM  
**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Industry confusion - Happy to discuss if the below is not clear [DEN-US\_Active.FID17477863]

(b)(5)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Lutz, Holley Thames" <[holley.lutz@dentons.com](mailto:holley.lutz@dentons.com)>  
**Date:** March 23, 2020 at 8:34:00 PM EDT  
**To:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** **Industry confusion - Happy to discuss if the below is not clear [DEN-US\_Active.FID17477863]**

Demetrios:

Our firm represents hospitals in all 50 states, not-for-profit, for profit, AMC and community hospitals. These are some things we're hearing. The telehealth question below has been submitted as a part of a waiver request. Thus, if that puts this to the bottom of your list, totally understood. I am elevating it, however, because we are getting this question numerous times per day. This is meant to be informative for you and is by no means meant to substitute for any official waiver requests you've seen.

1. **Telehealth:** The industry is very delighted about the expanded telehealth coverage for telehealth services to patients regardless of whether they are in a rural area and/or in their homes. Clearly this expands how patients can receive physician, APP professional services, e.g., 1:1 psychotherapy or E/M, billed on a CMS-1500. The confusion arises around whether hospitals can provide telehealth services to patients in their homes and bill for those services on a UB-04.

For example, hospital has a wound care clinic, which is temporarily closed to allow hospitals to utilize space or staff as necessary. That said, there are still patients requiring wound care services, e.g., hospital-based APP to look at wound, change dressing, etc. Hospitals would bill, among other things, an outpatient clinic visit, i.e., G0463. Patients do not want to come to the hospital, or more likely, they are under a shelter-in-place order. Hospital employed APP (not enrolled in Medicare as a practitioner) who usually staffs the wound care clinic can do telehealth visit over FaceTime with the patient while the patient is in the home, provide direction to the patient and his wife about changing the dressing, and keep that patient out of the hospital as a result.

Or, take outpatient psych/partial hospitalization. For a PHP, patients are in the Program only if but for that program the patients would need to be an inpatient. Patients are anxious, self-isolating, under shelter-in-place, but hospital space is repurposed to accommodate current, COVID-19 related care. These vulnerable patients have a high risk of readmission absent PHP services. With Zoom technology today (encrypted), LCSWs can provide individual therapy (even group therapy) with patients in their homes. Again, the only way for hospitals to bill for those services is via a UB-04.

Telehealth is covered under SSA 1834 Special Payment Rules for Items and Services. Specifically, 1834(m)(1) provides:

(1) In general.—The Secretary shall pay for telehealth services that are furnished via a telecommunications system by a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)) or a practitioner (described in section 1842(b)(18)(C)) to an eligible telehealth individual enrolled under this part notwithstanding that the individual physician or practitioner providing the telehealth service is not at the same location as the beneficiary.

In full disclosure, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has published articles on the provision of telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic that are applicable to professional services. CMS's COVID Medicare Telehealth [FAQ Question 13](#), references telehealth services in the

hospital as follows:

**Q: Can hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies or other healthcare facilities bill for telehealth services?**

**A: Billing for Medicare telehealth services is limited to professionals.** (Like other professional services, Critical Access Hospitals can report their telehealth services under CAH Method II). If a beneficiary is in a health care facility (even if the facility is not in a rural area or not in a health professional shortage area) and receives a service via telehealth, the health care facility would only be eligible to bill for the originating site facility fee, which is reported under HCPCS code Q3014. But the professional services can be paid for.

Although it appears that telehealth is being interpreted as covering only Part B (CMS-1500) claims, it is not clear that this is the necessary (or even accurate) interpretation.

Hospitals will do what they have to do clinically to serve patients. Clarifying whether and to what extent hospitals may be reimbursed is critical, however, as hospitals are trying to meet an ever growing demand with stretched and stressed staff and communities.

Based on the above, hospitals respectfully request CMS clarification that hospitals may bill for outpatient clinic services when furnished by clinical personnel (within their scope of license) who are located in the hospital. To do so, hospitals also need an expansion of covered HCPCS/CPT codes eligible for reimbursement via telehealth to accommodate the expansion of telehealth billing by hospitals on a UB-04, e.g., G0643 ..

2. **Blanket Waivers:** The four (4) page 1135 Waiver Overview on CMS's website indicates (as do other sources) that even with a blanket waiver, hospitals "should still notify State Survey Agencies and CMS RO" if they are operating under the blanket waiver. That just seems silly. There's enough to do.

### **Blanket Waiver Modifications**

CMS has, in past disasters, implemented specific waivers or modifications under the 1135 authority on a “blanket” basis, when a determination has been made that all similarly situated providers in the emergency area needed such a waiver or modification. Examples include hospitals that have initiated their disaster plans and are operating under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) waiver, the 25-bed limit and 96-hour annual average per patient length of stay requirement for Critical Access Hospitals, and requests for increases in the number of certified beds for providers. While blanket authority for these modifications may be allowed, the provider should still notify the State Survey Agency and CMS Regional Office if operating under these modifications to ensure proper payment. Similarly, most reporting requirements (such as nursing homes providing Minimum Data Set updates on residents) are suspended for all providers in the impacted areas in accordance with the Waiver authority.

3. **Additional Blanket Waivers:** When/If y’all answer hospital associations’ Waiver requests, e.g., AHA, FAH, will these be blanket waivers? Seems so, but thought I’d ask.

OK, I could go on and on but just wanted to give you the feedback above. Again, this is to you, friend. I don’t care who reads it if it helps. I just don’t want to “jump the line” or get in the way of the well thought out waiver requests I know y’all are working on very diligently.

Hope the fam is ok and hope you are getting some sleep. At least one of us would be!

Thanks, D.

Holley



Holley Thames Lutz

D +1 202 408 6836 | US Internal 26836  
[holley.lutz@dentons.com](mailto:holley.lutz@dentons.com)  
[Bio](#) | [Website](#)  
Assistant: Patricia L. Parris +1 202 408 6943

Dentons US LLP  
1900 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

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**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Sent:** 4/7/2020 3:03:57 AM +0000

**To:** Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) (Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov);  
Richter,Elizabeth(CMS/CM) (elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)

**Subject:** FW: FW: next bill

**Attachments:** RE: Legislative Proposals DRAFT; RE: DRAFT Outline of Senate Package; OL Summaries of COVID Laws

FYI

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2020 11:04 PM  
**To:** Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL) <Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov >  
**Cc:** Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>; Brooks, John (CMS/OA) <john.brooks@cms.hhs.gov>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov >  
**Subject:** FW: next bill

Alec:

(A) The attached emails contain the latest list I have of the proposals she is referring to and the latest version of the leg language. Here is my assessment of where each stands and, in yellow highlights, next steps for each:

(b)(5)



Page 19 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

Page 20 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thoughts welcome.

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:27 PM

**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL) <[Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** next bill

(b)(5)

**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Sent:** 4/1/2020 10:37:01 AM +0000  
**To:** "Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI)" <alina.czekai@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request  
**Attachments:** AAPMR COVID-19 Waivers Request Final.pdf

I remember AAPMR

Their letter attached.

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:29 AM  
**To:** Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI) <Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request

(b)(5)

On Mar 31, 2020, at 10:39 PM, Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

(b)(5)

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**From:** Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:02 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)

<[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request

Circling back on the rehab hospitals. I've included them in all of the other relevant stakeholder group calls, but they would really appreciate the opportunity to express their concerns directly with CMS leadership. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

**Alina M. Czekai, MPH**

Office of the Administrator | Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Phone: 410-913-6829

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 8:00 AM

**To:** Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI) <[Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Cc:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request

(b)(5)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kendrick, Martha" <[mkendrick@akingump.com](mailto:mkendrick@akingump.com)>  
**Date:** March 26, 2020 at 11:00:51 PM EDT  
**To:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kranacs Jeannette <[Jeannette.kranacs@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jeannette.kranacs@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Seagrave, Susanne (CMS/CM)" <[SUSANNE.SEAGRAVE@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:SUSANNE.SEAGRAVE@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Czekai, Alina (CMS/CMMI)" <[Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alina.Czekai@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Smith, Todd C. (CMS/CM)" <[Todd.Smith@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Todd.Smith@cms.hhs.gov)>, Beller Kate <[kbeller@amrpa.org](mailto:kbeller@amrpa.org)>, "Kendrick, Martha" <[mkendrick@akingump.com](mailto:mkendrick@akingump.com)>  
**Subject: AMRPA Time Sensitive Request**

Hi Demetrios,

Hope you are doing well. We can only imagine the level of pressure and stress on the CMS team at this juncture. I am reaching out on behalf of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA) Leadership with a time sensitive request — namely, for the foreseeable future during the pandemic emergency, AMRPA requests regularly scheduled weekly meetings/calls with you personally and other appropriate agency officials.

The urgency and seriousness of the COVID-19 crisis is unprecedented and changing rapidly on a daily basis. AMRPA leaders perceive it is imperative to convey first hand on a regular basis the real time situation to help the agency understand the impact of COVID-19 on rehabilitation hospitals, post acute care challenges, patient care needs and regulatory burdens/ relief to name a few areas where CMS' immediate dialogue with physicians and hospital administrators would be valuable and helpful both to the field and federal agency leaders.

AMRPA greatly appreciates the willing engagement of CMS staff on two recent calls and email communications and dialogue with agency staff and their openness, but perceives a need for direct dialogue with top Administration agency officials as well.

We will follow-up with your team tomorrow morning. Please know the AMRPA Board of Directors and member hospitals and rehab physicians in different parts of the country who are facing unprecedented challenges in confronting COVID-19 very much appreciate your consideration and responsiveness. Stay well.

With thanks and best,

Martie Kendrick

(b)(6)

**Martha M. Kendrick**

**AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP**

2001 K Street N.W., Washington, DC  
20006 | USA | Direct: +1 202.887.4215 | Internal:  
24215

Fax: +1 202.887.4288 | Mobile: +1  
(b)(6) | mkendrick@akingump.com | akingump.  
com | Bio

Sent from my iPhone, please understand brevity and  
forgive any typos

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for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named  
above. If you have received this communication in error, please  
notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message.

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**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(5)

**Sent:** 4/1/2020 2:33:40 AM +0000  
**To:** "Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS)" <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Corrected Technical Direction Letter for Issuance: TDL-200316  
**Attachments:** Added Location New PTAN.docx; Added Location No New PTAN.docx; Approval Letter.docx; Attestation for ASCs enrolling as Hospitals during COVID PHE 3.28.20.pdf; Contact Sheet.docx; Converting ASC to Hospital PECOS Steps.docx; Corrected (03-28-20) TDL-200316.pdf; CMS Round 2-Blanket Waivers(3-30-2020).docx

---

**From:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:25 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Corrected Technical Direction Letter for Issuance: TDL-200316

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**From:** Hops, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** Fischbach, Aaron (OS/IOS) <[Aaron.Fischbach@hhs.gov](mailto:Aaron.Fischbach@hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hoffman, Janice (HHS/OGC) <[Janice.Hoffman@HHS.GOV](mailto:Janice.Hoffman@HHS.GOV)>; Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC) <[Barbara.Fisher@HHS.GOV](mailto:Barbara.Fisher@HHS.GOV)>; Garver, Jennifer (HHS/OGC) <[Jennifer.Garver@HHS.GOV](mailto:Jennifer.Garver@HHS.GOV)>; Ritter, Christina S. (CMS/CMMI) <[Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Bassano, Amy (CMS/CMMI) <[amy.bassano@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:amy.bassano@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA) <[Kathleen.Cantwell@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Cantwell@cms.hhs.gov)>; Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <[Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** (b)(5)

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

Jeffrey S. Hops, Attorney

CMS Division, Office of General Counsel

US Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 619-0509

Telework:

(b)(6)

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(b)(5)

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**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Sent:** 3/31/2020 10:50:29 AM +0000

**To:** "Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL)" <Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov>

**CC:** "Brooks, John (CMS/OA)" <john.brooks@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: FW: Stimulus: Implications for Health Sectors; Punting Rx Pricing, Surprise Bills

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Rob Smith [mailto:rob.smith@capalphadc.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 9:02 PM

**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** Stimulus: Implications for Health Sectors; Punting Rx Pricing, Surprise Bills

# Senate Stimulus: Implications for Health Sectors; Punting Rx Pricing, Surprise Bills

March 22, 2020 | HEALTH CARE

Although negotiators have yet to reach an agreement on the third coronavirus response bill, details on the Senate legislation that have been released so far help provide some reasonable parameters of for how much Congress is likely to appropriate for health care and other sectors. These numbers could change as discussions continue. However, we think the amounts detailed below provide a good ballpark, and most objections to the Senate legislation appear directed to unrelated provisions.

In addition to appropriations for items like vaccine development/procurement and hospital relief, several other sectors are likely to benefit from various policy and payment changes that we outline in this note. In general, we see these as consensus measures that are likely to largely trickle through to an end product. These provisions are particularly good news for DME and post-acute providers. A CBO score is not available yet.

Finally, as we've predicted, the Senate legislation would extend a variety (Medicare, Medicaid, and other) of government programs and provisions (collectively known as Medicare extenders) through 2021. The extenders are currently due to expire on May 22, which House Speaker Pelosi intended to use as a vehicle for drug pricing measures, and other members hoped to attach surprise billing measures.

We continue to believe that the stimulus package will punt on extenders through 2021. In our view, this move would largely close the door on major drug pricing and surprise billing legislation clearing until 2022. The need to offset ~\$17 billion in extenders in May was going to be the driving force for drug pricing and surprise billing provisions. If Congress is set to clear extenders via an emergency/stimulus measure that isn't paid for, the offset leverage would essentially evaporate.

## Policy Provisions

- **Sequester Relief**

- Most Medicare providers and MA plans would see relief from the -2% Medicare sequester cut that applies to all services through the end of 2020, as we

predicted on our 3/19 conference call (replay available on request)

- **Telemedicine:** The first coronavirus response bill directed CMS to issue emergency waivers to expand providers' ability to offer telemedicine services during the emergency. We detailed these changes last week - see CMS' recently released implementation toolkit [here](#). The Senate text would provide additional flexibility by:
  - Allowing wider application of a telehealth grant program testing ways to expand service access
  - Allowing high deductible health plans to cover telehealth services pre-deductible through 2021
  - Allowing telemedicine coverage for long-term care services
  - Provide federally-qualified health centers and rural health centers the ability to offer a broad suite of telemedicine services
  
- **Home health and hospices**
  - Temporarily allow PAs, nurse practitioners and/or nurses to conduct care planning activities in addition to physicians
  - Require HHS to consider ways to allow home health agencies to more broadly utilize telehealth services during emergency
  - Allow hospices to satisfy face-to-face patient encounters to recertify hospice benefits via telehealth
  
- **Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities**
  - Waive requirement that patients must be certified to receive at least 3 hours of therapy per day
  
- **Long-term Care Hospitals**
  - Relax 50 percent rule
  - Exempt patients treated in response to the public health emergency from site-neutrality provisions that result in facilities being reimbursed at lower hospital inpatient rates

- **Dialysis**

- Waive requirement of face-to-face visits for home dialysis patients and physicians

- **Strategic National Stockpile, Medical Supplies**

- Require the federal government to include respiratory masks, personal protective equipment, supplies to administer vaccines, and diagnostic tests in the SNS. Clarifies that medical supplies like swabs can be included in stockpile.

- **Drug and Device Shortage Mitigation**

- Establishes new FDA priority review for new sources of drugs in shortage
- Require drug manufacturers to report to FDA when drug ingredients/components are in shortage and maintain contingency plans to help prevent shortages.
- Require, during a public health emergency, for device manufacturers to abide by shortage notifications to FDA similar to current program for drugs.

- **Vaccine and Therapeutic Development**

- Ease financial restrictions on BARDA contracting to allow for larger awards, prioritize funding for projects that aim to mitigate diseases that can transfer from animals to humans
- Allow FDA fast track review for products that treat or mitigate animal to human diseases

- **Antibiotics**

- Require HHS to establish program to provide higher, separate reimbursement for hospital patients discharged with antimicrobial/antibiotic drugs, modeled from DISARM Act manufacturers have pushed for years
- HHS would publish a list of eligible drugs by October 1, 2021
- Hospitals must abide by antibiotic stewardship requirements in order to receive payment incentives

- **Hospitals**

- In addition to \$75b appropriations, provide 20% Medicare add on payment for services provided to beneficiaries coded as Covid-19 patients for treatment of that disease
- Direct CMS to implement a demo allowing for acute care facilities to be reimbursed for providing services to help patients transition to home and community-based care

- **DME**

- Delay application of competitive bidding program pricing to rural areas and others currently not included in program pricing through duration of emergency period (currently exempt through December 2020).
- Adjust reimbursement of other CBP areas from competitive bidding pricing to 75% competitive bidding and 25% pricing prior to competitive bidding through emergency.

#### **Direct Health Care Appropriations**

- \$75 billion for “providers,” bulk likely to be provided to hospitals
- \$20 billion for veterans’ health care
- \$11 billion for vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and other preparedness needs
- \$4.5 billion for the Centers for Disease Control
- \$1.7 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile

[Download PDF](#)

▪ **Rob Smith**

rob.smith@capalphadc.com  
202-215-5202

**Kim Monk**

kim.monk@capalphadc.com  
202-548-0049

ANALYST CERTIFICATION

The following analysts hereby certify (1) that their views about any and all of the subject companies and securities discussed in this report are accurately expressed and (2) that no part of their compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the views expressed in this report: Rob Smith, Kim Monk.

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**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Sent:** 4/1/2020 4:16:31 PM +0000

**To:** "Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS)" <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: FW: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

**Attachments:** Combined CLEAN with Comments QSO 20XX.ASC. Processing ASC attestations for temporary hospital status during COVID PHE 4.1.20 dlk comp.pdf; Combined CLEAN with Comments QSO 20XX.ASC. Processing ASC attestations for temporary hospital status during COVID PHE 4.1.20 dlk comp.docx

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 12:14 PM  
**To:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov>; Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI) <Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ) <Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals  
**Importance:** High

(b)(5)

Thanks!

---

**From:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:00 AM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <[Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI) <[Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ) <[Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19



CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Thanks Demetrios. I made the changes you listed and attached the updated clean version (with all the clearance comments left in but no track changes). I also have the redline version for OSORA purposes but wanted you to see the clean version.

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:53 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <[Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Glad we asked for a clean version -

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:32 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Swygert, Tiffany T. (CMS/CM) <[Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Swygert@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Thanks, Erin...sharing with Demetrios for awareness.

Demetrios,

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

David R. Wright, Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

410.786.2000

---

**From:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:24 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ) <[Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Here is the redline version (with several OMB changes/comments highlighted in yellow) as well as my clean version for review. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Happy to chat if that's easier to finish this up.

---

**From:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:42 PM  
**To:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

That's doable. I'll be standing by. If I don't acknowledge your email in ten minutes, please bug me.

David R. Wright, Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

410.786.2000

---

**From:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Ok.

I sent a note to Zabeen (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:05 PM  
**To:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Thanks, Erin... (b)(5)

(b)(5)

David R. Wright, Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

410.786.2000

---

**From:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:45 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals  
**Importance:** High

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** Imhoff, Erin M. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Imhoff@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

OMB

David R. Wright, Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

410.786.2000

---

**From:** Miller, Ruth A. (CMS/OSORA) <[Ruth.Miller@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ruth.Miller@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [PRIORITY ITEM] For review by 1PM today, Tuesday, March 31: COVID-19 CMS Policy Clearance - ASC Attestations for Temp Hospitals

Thanks,  
Carrie

---

Carrie Shelton | HHS Exec Sec (Detail) | [Carrie.Shelton@hhs.gov](mailto:Carrie.Shelton@hhs.gov) |



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <[REDACTED]> (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Sent:** 4/1/2020 1:56:04 PM +0000

**To:** "Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)" <Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>

**CC:** "Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)" <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; "Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)" <Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; "Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS)" <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>; "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)" <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tee, Gift (CMS/CM)" <Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM)" <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM)" <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: RE: IFC FAQs

**Attachments:** COVID19-Medicare IFC  
FAQs\_TrackChanges\_3.31.20\_CMFO.Policy.MCRev\_935AM dlk.docx;  
COVID19-Medicare IFC  
FAQs\_TrackChanges\_3.31.20\_CMFO.Policy.MCRev\_935AM dlk.pdf

[Here are comments and edits on the attachment. Reviewing new Q&As below next.](#)

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:03 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov>; Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM) <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM) <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

For your review, I am attaching a clean version and a track changes version that address all of the comments and edits, and include several new FAQs. In addition, below are [REDACTED] (b)(5) Once you approve these, they will be added to the clean version for clearance. Thank you.

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

Page 42 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)



(b)(5)

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**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:59 AM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Hope all are well this AM.

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 5:28 PM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

(b)(5)

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**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 3:10 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Here is a clean version of the document, with the exception of 2 comments (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) If others disagree and think either answer needs to change, please let us know.

I also responded to (b)(5) and the updated document reflects this. Thanks.

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:33 PM  
**To:** Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Replies in red

---

**From:** Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:23 PM  
**To:** Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)

<[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
<[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

One addition in purple.

---

**From:** Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <[Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: IFC FAQs

Hi all,

I've made some edits in the attached FAQ document and tried to answer some of Demetrios' questions below (in green). There are several others are probably in a better position to answer.

(b)(5)

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**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 12:33 PM  
**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <[Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Thanks.

(b)(5)

Page 47 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <[IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Edits and questions attached.

INFORMATION NOT RELEASABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW:

This information has not been publicly disclosed and may be privileged and confidential. It is for internal government use only and must not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive the information. Unauthorized disclosure may result in prosecution to the full extent of the law.

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:41 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Here's a new version with (b)(5) Thanks.

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 5:18 PM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** IFC FAQs

Here are the IFC FAQs for your review. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <EXCHANGELABS/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/RECIPIENTS/F4B26CBB0CBD43DD99C01D0862026AA3-KLY4>  
**Sent:** 4/3/2020 4:01:01 PM +0000  
**To:** "Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)" <Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)" <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; "Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)" <Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; "Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS)" <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>; "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)" <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tee, Gift (CMS/CM)" <Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM)" <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM)" <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>; "French, Beth A. (CMS/CM)" <Beth.French@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: IFC FAQs  
**Attachments:** COVID19-Medicare IFC FAQs\_TrackChanges\_3.31.20\_CMFO.Policy.MCRev\_935AM dlk\_RESPONSE TO DLK\_4.1.20 dlk getting close.pdf; COVID19-Medicare IFC FAQs\_TrackChanges\_3.31.20\_CMFO.Policy.MCRev\_935AM dlk\_RESPONSE TO DLK\_4.1.20 dlk getting close.docx

Edits and comments in the attached in tracked changes word and PDF. Let's touch base briefly on the 1500/UB question at Sr. Staff.

---

**From:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; Miranda-Marin, Eric (HHS/IOS) <Eric.Miranda-marin@hhs.gov>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>; Tee, Gift (CMS/CM) <Gift.Tee@cms.hhs.gov>; Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM) <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM) <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: IFC FAQs

Copied to the email for convenience. Same with the CTBS FAQs.

---

**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM) <[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos, Diana S.



---

**From:** "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 4/1/2020 10:15:41 AM +0000  
**To:** "French, Beth A. (CMS/CM)" <Beth.French@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM)" <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

Slight modification:

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 3:55 PM  
**To:** French, Beth A. (CMS/CM) <Beth.French@cms.hhs.gov>; Richter,Elizabeth(CMS/CM) {elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov} <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <brett.logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

(b)(5)

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <[Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Coleman, Kathryn A. (CMS/CM) <[Kathryn.Coleman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Coleman@cms.hhs.gov)>; Larrick, Amy (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Larrick@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Larrick@cms.hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

(b)(5)

On Mar 29, 2020, at 12:15 PM, Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <[Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

+ Kathryn & Amy

I agree with your quick take.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

**From:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:48 AM

**To:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <[Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers  
Quick take on these below

(b)(5)

**From:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:38 AM  
**To:** Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>; Logan, Brett (CMS/OA) <[Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov)>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <[elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov)>; Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <[Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers  
Forwarding to you all since these are all yours

**From:** Jennifer Young <[jyoung@tdyllc.com](mailto:jyoung@tdyllc.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers

Here you go from Anthem - and many thanks to the whole team for their time and all they are doing....

**Medicare Questions Associated with Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act**

**Sec. 3710. Medicare hospital inpatient prospective payment system add-on payment for COVID-19 patients during emergency period:** This section would increase the payment that would otherwise be made to a hospital for treating a patient admitted with COVID-19 by 20 percent. Specifically, it increases the weighting factor of diagnosis-related groups (DRGs) for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 by 20 percent. This recognizes that COVID-19 cases can be resource intensive and provides higher payment for these complex patients. This add-on payment would apply for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.

- Will Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) also be required to increase the DRG payment?
- If so, how will CMS adjust a MAO's payment? An offsetting adjustment to MA benchmarks or risk adjustment will be important to ensure adequate payment for increased hospital COVID-19 inpatient costs.
- Will the 20 percent apply to the payment related to COVID-19, or the entire payment for an episode of care/hospitalization, including complications not related to the virus?

(b)(5)

**Sec. 3801. Extension of the work geographic index floor under the Medicare program:** This section would increase payments for the work component of physician fees in areas where labor cost is determined to be lower than the national average [through November 30, 2020](#).

- Will MAOs also be required to increase payments for the work component of certain physician fees?
- If so, will there be an offsetting adjustment to MA benchmarks or risk adjustment?

(b)(5)

**Sec. 3719. Expansion of the Medicare hospital accelerated payment program during the COVID-19 public health emergency:** This section would expand, for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period, an existing Medicare accelerated payment program. Specifically, qualified facilities would be able to request up to a six month lump sum or periodic payment. This accelerated payment would be based on net reimbursement represented by unbilled discharges or unpaid bills. Most hospital types could elect to receive up to 100 percent of

the prior period payments, with CAHs able to receive up to 125 percent. Finally, a qualifying hospital would not be required to start paying Medicare back for four months after receiving the first payment. Hospitals would have at least 12 months to complete repayment without paying interest.

- Will MAOs be required to provide an accelerated hospital payment program during the COVID-19 public health emergency?
- If so, will there be an offsetting adjustment to MA benchmarks or risk adjustment?

b)(5)

**Sec. 3714. Requiring Medicare prescription drug plans and MA–PD plans to allow during the COVID-19 emergency period for fills and refills of covered part D drugs for up to a 3-month supply:** This section would require that Medicare Part D plans provide up to a 90-day supply of a prescription medication if requested by a beneficiary during the COVID-19 emergency period.

- Will MAOs be permitted to apply quantity limits for drugs that may be in short supply such as hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine?

b)(5)

**Sec. 3708. Improving care planning for Medicare home health services:** Under current law, only physicians are able to certify the need for home health services. This section makes a permanent change to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to order home health services for beneficiaries, reducing delays and increasing beneficiary access to care in the safety of their home.

- Will there be any expansion of allowable Medicare home health services during the emergency?

b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2020, at 8:00 PM, Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

[Thanks—you can send them to me directly or to me, Megan and Sherri from the prior chain.](#)

**From:** Jennifer Young <[jyoung@tdyllc.com](mailto:jyoung@tdyllc.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:43 PM

**To:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers  
Anthem is building out a list of questions and we will circle back ASAP.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2020, at 6:04 PM, Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM)" <[Megan.Worstell@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Worstell@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Date:** March 28, 2020 at 6:04:22 PM EDT  
**To:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** "McQueen, Sherri (CMS/OFM)" <[Sherri.McQueen@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sherri.McQueen@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Gorner, Julia (CMS/OFM)" <[Julia.Gorner@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Julia.Gorner@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Montilla, Maria C. (CMS/OFM)" <[Maria.Montilla@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Maria.Montilla@cms.hhs.gov)>, "Richardson, Tracy E. (CMS/OFM)" <[Tracy.Richardson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tracy.Richardson@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject: Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers**

Kim- We don't understand the question?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2020, at 5:22 PM, Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jennifer Young <[jyoung@tdyllc.com](mailto:jyoung@tdyllc.com)>  
**Date:** March 28, 2020 at 5:13:28 PM EDT  
**To:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject: Re: CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers**

With apologies for a follow up question- have decisions been made about how all of this pulls thru to MA in real-time?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2020, at 3:47 PM, Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

FYI since many of you have been asking about this. Thanks!

**From:** CMS Press <[press@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:press@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)  
<[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** CMS NEWS: Trump  
Administration Provides Financial Relief  
for Medicare Providers

## CMS NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2020

Contact: CMS Media Relations  
(202) 690-6145 | [CMS Media Inquiries](#)

### **Trump Administration Provides Financial Relief for Medicare Providers**

*Action comes to aid providers and  
suppliers facing challenges in responding  
to COVID-19 pandemic*

Under the President's leadership, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an expansion of its accelerated and advance payment program for Medicare participating health care providers and suppliers, to ensure they have the resources needed to combat the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This program expansion, which includes changes from the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is one way that CMS is working to lessen the financial hardships of providers facing extraordinary challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensures the nation's providers can focus on patient care. There has been significant disruption to the healthcare industry, with

providers being asked to delay non-essential surgeries and procedures, other healthcare staff unable to work due to childcare demands, and disruption to billing, among the challenges related to the pandemic.

“With our nation’s health care providers on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19, dollars and cents shouldn’t be adding to their worries,” said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. “Unfortunately, the major disruptions to the healthcare system caused by COVID-19 are a significant financial burden on providers. Today’s action will ensure that they have the resources they need to maintain their all-important focus on patient care during the pandemic.”

Medicare provides coverage for 37.4 million beneficiaries in its Fee for Service (FFS) program, and made \$414.7 billion in direct payments to providers during 2019. This effort is part of the Trump Administration’s White House Coronavirus Task Force effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 through a whole-of-America approach, with a focus on strengthening and leveraging public-private relationships.

Accelerated and advance Medicare payments provide emergency funding and addresses cash flow issues based on historical payments when there is disruption in claims submission and/or claims processing. These expedited payments are typically offered in natural disasters to accelerate cash flow to the impacted health care providers and suppliers. In this situation, CMS is expanding the

program for all Medicare providers throughout the country during the public health emergency related to COVID-19. The payments can be requested by hospitals, doctors, durable medical equipment suppliers and other Medicare Part A and Part B providers and suppliers.

To qualify for accelerated or advance payments, the provider or supplier must:

- Have billed Medicare for claims within 180 days immediately prior to the date of signature on the provider's/supplier's request form,
- Not be in bankruptcy,
- Not be under active medical review or program integrity investigation, and
- Not have any outstanding delinquent Medicare overpayments.

Medicare will start accepting and processing the Accelerated/Advance Payment Requests immediately. CMS anticipates that the payments will be issued within seven days of the provider's request.

An informational fact sheet on the accelerated/advance payment process and how to submit a request can be found here:

[www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf)

This action, and earlier CMS actions in response to COVID-19, are part of the ongoing White House Coronavirus Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the

Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, visit [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). For a complete and updated list of CMS actions, and other information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).

###

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Washington, DC 20010, USA  
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<image002.jpg>



[newest recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). It directs nursing homes to significantly restrict visitors and nonessential personnel, as well as restrict communal activities inside nursing homes. The new measures are CMS's latest action to protect America's seniors, who are at highest risk for complications from COVID-19. While visitor restrictions may be difficult for residents and families, it is an important temporary measure for their protection.

“As we learn more about the Coronavirus from experts on the ground, we’ve learned that seniors with multiple conditions are at highest risk for infection and complications, so CMS is using every tool at our disposal to keep nursing homes free from infection,” said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. “Temporarily restricting visitors and nonessential workers will help reduce the risk of Coronavirus spread in nursing homes, keeping residents safe. The Trump Administration is working around the clock to ensure the continued safety of America’s health care system, particularly nursing homes.”

The new measures CMS announced today, which supersede prior CMS guidance, constitute the agency’s most aggressive and decisive recommendations with respect to nursing home safety in the face of the spread of COVID-19. They include:

- Restricting all visitors, effective immediately, with exceptions for compassionate care, such as end-of-life situations;
- Restricting all volunteers and nonessential health care personnel and other personnel (i.e. barbers);
- Cancelling all group activities and communal dining; and
- Implementing active screening of residents and health care personnel for fever and respiratory symptoms.

The guidance directs nursing homes to restrict visitation except in certain compassionate cases, like end-of-life. In those cases, visitors will be equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks, and the visit will be limited to a specific room only.

CMS’s guidance is based upon CDC recommendations informed by real-time information being gathered from experts on the ground in areas with large numbers of COVID-19 cases, like Washington and California. According to CDC, seniors with multiple health conditions are at highest risk for complications. With large congregations of that particularly vulnerable population, nursing homes are extremely susceptible to quick spread of the virus. There have already been reports of large numbers of cases of COVID-19 spreading quickly through nursing homes, such as the Life Care Center in Kirkland, Washington. The spread of COVID-19 in a nursing home can amplify or seed further spread to other facilities when patients are transferred and when staff and visitors come and go. According to CDC, visitors and health care personnel who are ill are the most likely source of introduction of COVID-19 into nursing homes, necessitating today’s change in guidance to restrict visitors and personnel.

CMS understands the vital importance of keeping nursing home residents connected with their loved ones. However, the rapid spread of COVID-19 and its transmission through visitors and health care workers – as well as nursing home residents’ high risk – has made it necessary to restrict nonessential visitation in order to protect the health and safety of residents. In lieu of visits, CMS encourages nursing homes to facilitate increased virtual communication between residents and families. CMS also encourages nursing homes to keep residents’ loved ones informed about their care. This could include assigning a staff member as a primary contact for families to facilitate inbound communications, as well as regular outbound communications. Nursing homes are expected to notify potential visitors to defer visitation until further notice through signage and other outreach, such as emails and phone calls.

CDC has made several additional recommendations for nursing homes as they work to keep their residents safe. Nursing homes should put alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95 percent alcohol in every resident room – both inside and outside the room if possible – and in every common area. Additionally, nursing homes should ensure sinks are well-stocked with soap and paper towels for hand washing. They should make tissues and facemasks available for people who are coughing, and make necessary PPE available in areas where resident care is provided. Finally, they should ensure hospital grade disinfectants are available to allow for frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces and shared resident equipment. A full list of CDC guidance to nursing homes can be found [here](#).

This guidance, and earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 virus, are part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19 click here <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=e030d17b-bc65d868-e030e044-0cc47adb5650-62942770dccfd234&u=http://www.coronavirus.gov/>. For information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).

Summary of CMS Public Health Action on COVID-19 to date:

March 13, 2020: CMS issued frequently asked Questions (FAQs) on Essential Health Benefits (EHB) Coverage in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The FAQ detail existing federal rules governing health coverage provided through the individual and small group insurance markets that apply to the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-publishes-faqs-ensure-individuals-issuers-and-states-have-clear-information-coverage-benefits>

March 12, 2020: CMS issued frequently asked questions (FAQs) to aid state Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. CMS is taking this action in its continuing efforts to protect the health and safety of providers and patients, including those who are covered by Medicaid and CHIP.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-publishes-first-set-covid-19->

[frequently-asked-questions-faqs-state-medicaid-and-childrens-health](#)

March 11, 2020: CMS issued frequently asked questions to aid state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies in their response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-publishes-first-set-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-state-medicaid-and-childrens-health>

March 10, 2020: CMS issued guidance to home health agencies and dialysis facilities with actionable information for healthcare workers on screening, treatment and transfer procedures to follow when interacting with patients in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-sends-more-detailed-guidance-providers-about-covid-19>

March 10, 2020: CMS issued a frequently asked questions to ensure State Survey Agencies and accrediting organizations charged with inspecting nursing homes and other health care facilities, understand that non-emergency survey inspections are suspended. This shift in survey prioritization enables State Inspectors to address the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/covid-19-response-news-alert-cms-issues-frequently-asked-questions-guidance-state-survey-agencies>

March 10, 2020: CMS issued guidance on Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D health and prescription drug plans informing them of the flexibilities they have to provide healthcare coverage for testing, treatments, and prevention of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Leading insurance companies and their industry associations announced they will be treating COVID-19 diagnostic tests as covered benefits and will be waiving cost sharing that would otherwise apply to the test.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-issues-guidance-help-medicare-advantage-and-part-d-plans-respond-covid-19>

March 10, 2020: CMS issued guidance on the range of facemasks that can be temporarily used based on recent changes to CDC and FDA facemask and respirator guidance in light of COVID-19 and supply demands. These are steps the White House Task Force is taking to ensure a maximum supply of facemasks and respirators are available that allow healthcare providers to safely treat patients without exposing themselves or others to COVID-19.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/covid-19-response-news-alert-cms-issues-key-protective-mask-guidance-healthcare-workers>

March 9, 2020: CMS delivered guidance on the screening, treatment and transfer procedures healthcare workers must follow when interacting with patients to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a hospice setting. CMS also issued additional guidance specific to nursing homes to help control and prevent the spread of the virus.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-issues-clear-actionable-guidance-providers-about-covid-19-virus>

March 9, 2020: CMS issued a press release highlighting the telehealth benefits in the agency's Medicare program for use by patients and providers. Expanded use of virtual care, such as virtual check-ins, are important tools for keeping beneficiaries healthy, while helping to contain the community spread of the COVID-19 virus.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/telehealth-benefits-medicare-are-lifeline-patients-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

March 9, 2020: CMS published guidance to hospitals with emergency departments (EDs) on patient screening, treatment and transfer requirements to prevent the spread of infectious disease and illness, including COVID-19. Medicare-participating hospitals are to follow both CDC guidance for infection control and Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) requirements.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-issues-call-action-hospital-emergency-departments-screen-patients-coronavirus>

March 6, 2020: CMS issued frequently asked questions and answers (FAQs) for healthcare providers regarding Medicare payment for laboratory test and other services related to the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/covid-19-response-news-alert-cms-issues-frequently-asked-questions-assist-medicare-providers>

March 5, 2020: CMS issued a second Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for certain COVID-19 laboratory tests, in addition to three fact sheets about coverage and benefits for medical services related to COVID-19 for CMS programs. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-develops-additional-code-coronavirus-lab-tests>

March 4, 2020: CMS issued a call to action to healthcare providers nationwide and offered important guidance to help State Survey Agencies and Accrediting Organizations prioritize their inspections of healthcare.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-actions-address-spread-coronavirus>

February 13, 2020: CMS issued a new HCPCS code for providers and laboratories to test patients for COVID-19. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/public-health-news-alert-cms-develops-new-code-coronavirus-lab-test>

February 6, 2020: CMS gave CLIA-certified laboratories information about how they can test for SARS-CoV-2. <https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfopolicy-and-memos-states-and/notification-surveyors-authorization-emergency-use-cdc-2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-real-time-rt>

February 6, 2020: CMS issued a memo to help the nation's healthcare facilities take

critical steps to prepare for COVID-19. <https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfo/policy-and-memos-states-and/information-healthcare-facilities-concerning-2019-novel-coronavirus-illness-2019-ncov>

###

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**From:** Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 4/4/2020 6:39:46 PM +0000  
**To:** "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL)" <Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS)" <Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC)" <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: For review: MEDIA INQUIRY: Nursing Home Visitation Guidance (Politico) // Deadline is tonight

Thanks.

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2020, at 2:27 PM, Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 2:11 PM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: For review: MEDIA INQUIRY: Nursing Home Visitation Guidance (Politico) // Deadline is tonight

Thanks Brady (b)(5) see a start below) and remove the highlighted below.

My quick list:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Good to go after that?

Kelly

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**From:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 1:05 PM  
**To:** Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <[jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review: MEDIA INQUIRY: Nursing Home Visitation Guidance (Politico) //

Deadline is tonight

(b)(5)

*Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

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**From:** Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 11:08 AM  
**To:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL) <[Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov)>; Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS) <[Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicole.Black@cms.hhs.gov)>; Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC) <[Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <[jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** For review: MEDIA INQUIRY: Nursing Home Visitation Guidance (Politico) // Deadline is tonight  
**Importance:** High

Brady –

We received the below inquiry early yesterday evening and have worked with Matt, Kim and the CCSQ team on the below response.

Their deadline is tonight.

Please let us know if this looks good to you.

Thanks,

Kelly

## **INQUIRY**

I wanted to reach out for comment for a story on nursing home infections – On March 4, CMS directed state agencies to target infection controls in nursing homes a week after the Kirkland outbreak. Why did the agency decide nine days later to restrict visitors? Was there a push to do so sooner? Was their internal debate? Was the agency waiting for states to take action?

## **PROPOSED RESPONSE**

(b)(5)



Page 4 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

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**From:** Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 3/9/2020 12:04:51 PM +0000  
**To:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)" <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Why not add some of the material from the ambulance section of the faq?

On Mar 9, 2020, at 5:40 AM, Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Brady— here's the draft ET3 answer I mentioned. Adding Arrah to check if it went to OGC.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tabe-Bedward, Arrah A. (CMS/CMMI) <arrah.tabebedward@cms.hhs.gov>

---

**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 10:30 PM  
**To:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Friedman, Rivka H. (CMS/CMMI) <Rivka.Friedman@cms.hhs.gov>; Matthews, Elizabeth A. (CMS/CMMI) <Elizabeth.Matthews@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS) <Rosa.Mack@cms.hhs.gov>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Looping in Rivka and Liz to help answer whether CMMI cleared its response thru GC

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2020, at 8:06 PM, Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

I'm not aware that CM sent it to OGC for approval. Arrah, did CMMI? I'm happy to send it if needed.

---

**From:** Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)  
<[Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:54 PM  
**To:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)  
<[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tabe-Bedward, Arrah A. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[arrah.tabebedward@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:arrah.tabebedward@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS)  
<[Rosa.Mack@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Rosa.Mack@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

It looks like CCSQ staff worked with CM and CMMI staff to develop responses to a couple of ambulance transport questions that came from ASH ADM Brett Giroir. Can you confirm that the response below have been reviewed by OGC and are ready to be shared with the CDC?

Thank you

---

**From:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:18 PM  
**To:** Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov)>; Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)  
<[Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wright, Jessica (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Jessica.Wright@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jessica.Wright@cms.hhs.gov)>; Rogers, Tennille (CMS/CCSQ) <[Tennille.Rogers@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tennille.Rogers@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Jean, Carol, or David,

Megan received a question from the CDC for Assistant Secretary of Health, ADM Brett Giroir. The Q & A is in the email directly below in bold. The full (very long) email trail is included FYI. Can you let us know how to proceed with this? Megan has successfully navigated through the gauntlet of CM and CMMI, and now we want to get the answer back over the CDC.

Thanks,

Evan

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 12:13 PM  
**To:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

**Question from the ASH and drafted answers.  
If you can have this cleared, that would be great.**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -  
**Importance:** High

Hey... (b)(5)

(b)(5)

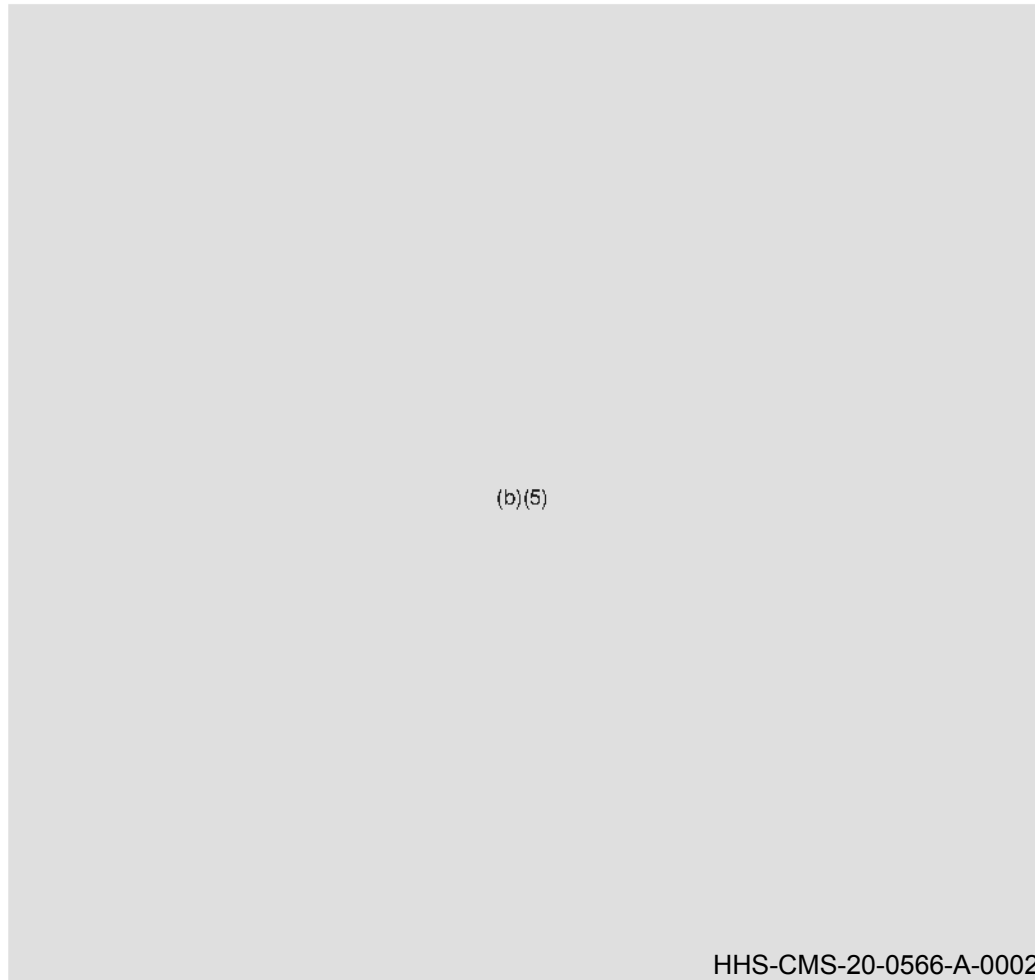
---

**From:** Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:55 AM  
**To:** Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)

<[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Hi, all

The ET3 Team can answer this question:



(b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:38 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI) <[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI) <[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

I am adding Amanda Paige Burns our legal SME.

(b)(5)

Amanda Paige: Do you want to add anything to this?

Warm regards,

J. Alice Thompson

J. Alice Thompson, MA  
Deputy Division Director  
Prevention and Population Health Group  
Division of Health Integration and Innovation  
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard WB-2-31-34  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Cell: 410-746-0222 Office: 410-786-9760  
[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)  
<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns,  
Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI)  
<[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam  
(CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd,  
Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina  
(CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle  
(CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)  
<[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis  
(CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr,  
Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM)  
<[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to  
COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Thank you, Sarah.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)



Best regards,

Megan

---

**From:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 11:14 AM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI) <[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tionson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tionson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tionson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI) <[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Megan,

We were able to find an example. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Sarah

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 10:39 AM  
**To:** Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI) <[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam

(CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI) <[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Hello Amanda, Sarah et al.,

I appreciate everyone's assistance with these questions.

The Assistant Secretary of Health, ADM Giroir did not give any more specifics than what I have provided below. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Please provide answers in plain language.

Thank you,

Megan

---

**From:** Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI)  
<[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 9:17 AM  
**To:** Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI)  
<[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI)  
<[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>;  
Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI)  
<[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Hey, Adam



(b)(5)

---

**From:** Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:33 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burd, Carlye A.

(CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gingold, Janelle (CMS/CMMI) <[Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janelle.Gingold@cms.hhs.gov)>; Thompson, J (CMS/CMMI) <[J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:J.Thompson@cms.hhs.gov)>; Lilly, Alexis (CMS/CMMI) <[Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexis.Lilly@cms.hhs.gov)>; Burns, Amanda Paige (CMS/CMMI) <[AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AmandaPaige.Burns@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

(b)(5)

Thank you for your patience.

Best,

*Adam Obest*

DSEP, ET3 Model

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation

443-613-7163

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** Burd, Carlye A. (CMS/CMMI) <[Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carlye.Burd@cms.hhs.gov)>; Obest, Adam (CMS/CMMI) <[Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Obest@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cooley, Tina (CMS/CMMI) <[Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tina.Cooley@cms.hhs.gov)>; Tiongson, Juliana R. (CMS/CMMI) <[juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:juliana.tiongson@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request from the ASH related to COVID 19----- Ambulance transports -

Good evening CMMI colleagues,

Can you please see the email chain below and address the ASH's question related to ET3? I am coordinating responses back to submitters. Thank you in advance for your response.

Best regards,

Megan

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:19 PM  
**To:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)  
<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM)  
<[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)  
<[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Thank you, Sarah. I look forward to hearing more from you, and (b)(5)

Best regards,

Megan

---

**From:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)  
<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D.

(CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Thanks. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

CMMI contacts on ET3 are:

(b)(5)

Sarah

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:07 PM  
**To:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Hello Sarah et al.,

Unfortunately, there is not any additional information.



(b)(5)

Thank you,

Megan

---

**From:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 4:56 PM  
**To:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Hi Megan,

Is there any additional information?

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

Thanks,

Sarah

**Sarah Shirey-Losso**  
**Director, Division of Ambulatory Services**  
**HAPG/Center for Medicare/CMS**  
(410) 786-0187  
**Email:** [sarah.shirey-losso@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:sarah.shirey-losso@cms.hhs.gov)

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM)  
<[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>; Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM) <[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber, Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>; Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM) <[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM) <[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Thank you, I look forward to the team's response.

Best regards,

Megan

---

**From:** Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM)



<[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 3:26 PM

**To:** Shirey-Losso, Sarah K. (CMS/CM)

<[Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.SHIREY-LOSSO@cms.hhs.gov)>; Gruber,

Amy L. (CMS/CM) <[Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov)>;

Markowitz, Esther B. (CMS/CM)

<[Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Esther.Markowitz@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan

R. (CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Cc:** Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)

<[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** - FW: Another request (my third)- from the ASH ----- Ambulance transports -

Forgot to add Megan!.....

Megan,

I'm looping in policy experts in HAPG on this.

Sarah/Amy/Esther, probably best to read the whole thread (b)(5)

(b)(5) Please let us know if there is anything we can do.

Thanks.

---

**From:** Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)

<[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 2:57 PM

**To:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)

<[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kerr, Jason D.

(CMS/CM) <[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Cc:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)

<[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos,

Diana S. (CMS/CM)

<[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Another request (my third)- from the ASH

Thank you, Diane and Jason.

(b)(5)

Best Regards,

Megan Hayden

Lieutenant Commander, United States Public Health  
Service

Nurse Consultant

CMS/CCSQ/QSOG/Division of Nursing Homes

410-786-1970

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distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to  
receive the information. Unauthorized disclosure  
may result in prosecution to the full extent of the  
law.

---

**From:** Kerr, Jason D. (CMS/CM)  
<[jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jason.kerr@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 2:47 PM  
**To:** Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)  
<[Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov)>; Hayden, Megan R.  
(CMS/CCSQ) <[Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Crochunis, Michael P. (CMS/CM)  
<[Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Crochunis@cms.hhs.gov)>; Motsiopoulos,  
Diana S. (CMS/CM)  
<[Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Another request (my third)- from the  
ASH

Diana found the following...

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Page 23 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

---

**From:** Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 3/21/2020 4:56:59 AM +0000  
**To:** "Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM)" <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Brooks, John (CMS/OA)" <John.Brooks@cms.hhs.gov>; "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fwd: ACAP Proposals to Address COVID  
**Attachments:** image001.png; ATT00001.htm; ACAP COVID 19 CMS Letter 032020.pdf; ATT00002.htm

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Meg Murray <mmurray@communityplans.net>  
**Date:** March 20, 2020 at 4:10:25 PM EDT  
**To:** (b)(6) "Verma, Seema (CMS/OA)" <Seema.Verma@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>, "Wilson, Lisa J. (CMS/CCIIO)" <lisa.wilson@cms.hhs.gov>, "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)" <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>, "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>, "Pate, Randy (CMS/CCIIO)" <Randy.Pate@cms.hhs.gov>, Heather Foster <hfoster@communityplans.net>, Jennifer Babcock <jbabcock@communityplans.net>, Christine Aguiar Lynch <clynch@communityplans.net>  
**Subject: ACAP Proposals to Address COVID**

Dear Seema,

Thanks for your leadership during these very challenging times. We and our member Safety Net Health Plans are grateful for the Medicaid, Medicare, and Marketplace guidance that your teams have published. The Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) is committed to partnership with you and your colleagues as we all work to address this crisis.

After consultation with our member health plans, ACAP has identified a number of policy areas in Medicaid, Medicare, and the Marketplaces that we believe are critical to help SNHPs, our network providers and our plan enrollees when confronting COVID-19. Our comments fall under three primary themes:

1. **Extending and Sustaining Medicaid, Medicare, and Marketplace Enrollment, Coverage, and Benefits.**
2. **Reducing Administrative Burden for Safety Net Health Plans and Other Health Care Stakeholders.**
3. **Ensure Fair Payment to Plans, Providers, and States for Unprecedented and Unbudgeted Costs.**

## **Medicaid**

### **Access to Stable Medicaid Coverage for All Medicaid and CHIP Enrollees.**

- ACAP asks CMS to immediately issue guidance to states related to implementation of continuous eligibility in Medicaid. Specifically, we urge CMS to require states to
  - Cease performing eligibility redeterminations.
  - Cease use of periodic income checks.
  - Cease other eligibility assessment activities that burden enrollees as well as eligibility personnel, which would counter the objective of section 6008(b).

### **Appropriate Resourcing for COVID-19 Prevention, Testing and Treatment.**

- ACAP urges CMS to provide strong oversight of Medicaid managed care rate-setting to ensure that all plans receive rates from states that are actuarially sound, specifically with regard to services related COVID-19.
- ACAP urges CMS not to waive section 438.4(a) of Medicaid managed care rules and the underlying statute relating to actuarial soundness, including under 1115 Waivers, Healthy Adult Opportunity Waivers, or 1135 emergency waivers.
- ACAP urges CMS to provide guidance regarding mid-year Medicaid managed care rate adjustments to account for costs related to COVID-19.

### **Institute a Moratorium on the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation (MFAR).**

- ACAP urges CMS to withdraw the MFAR proposed rule (CMS-2393-P) and instead consult with the appropriate stakeholders on how to improve the financing and operation of state Medicaid programs and assess the effects of the proposed changes on Medicaid programs and beneficiaries.

### **Assure Mandatory Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).**

- ACAP asks CMS not to approve any Medicaid waiver of NEMT.
- ACAP also asks CMS not to promulgate any regulation reinterpreting the NEMT benefit as an optional, rather than required, benefit.

## **Medicare/Medicaid Dual Eligibles**

### **Cover the Increased, Unanticipated Medicare Advantage and Medicare-Medicaid Plan Costs Associated with COVID-19.**

- ACAP urges CMS to adjust MA-PD base rates and/or risk-adjusted payments to MA plans, including D-SNPs, and MMPs to account for the increased and unanticipated costs associated with COVID-19.

### **Include COVID-19 Under the “Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Policy” for the CY 2021 Star Ratings.**

- ACAP urges CMS to include the COVID-19 pandemic under the “Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances” policy for CY 2021 Star Ratings for affected plans.

### **Suspension of Audits.**

- ACAP urges CMS to suspend all MA-PD audits, including RADV audits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Permit D-SNPs and Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) to Substitute Face-to-Face Care**

### **Coordination Activities with Telephonic or Telehealth Care Management.**

- ACAP urges CMS to permit D-SNPs and MMPs to substitute face-to-face care coordination activities with telephonic or telehealth care management.

### **Regulatory Relief on Medicaid LTSS Requirements.**

- ACAP urges CMS to work with states to quickly permit regulatory relief, particularly with respect to substituting telehealth for in-person assessments, timing of assessments, and eligibility requirements.

### **Individual Market Policy**

#### **Federal Special Enrollment Period (SEP).**

- ACAP urges CMS to establish a federal, prospective SEP that is coupled with a federal backstop to ensure that issuers do not face overwhelming, unanticipated costs associated with new, mid-year enrollment.

#### **Limit Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance.**

- ACAP urges CMS to issue a temporary moratorium on STLDI plans altogether and enact a concurrent SEP to ensure that consumers are able to access comprehensive coverage and care. CMS should further act to restore such plans to their intended use of filling gaps in coverage.

#### **Coverage Terminations.**

- We urge CMS to allow issuers the ability to extend 90-day grace period for both subsidized and unsubsidized consumers, so that health plans are not forced to drop those in need from their health coverage. Likewise, we urge CMS to allow additional flexibility for consumers who are terminated from coverage due to non-payment of premiums to reinstate their coverage.

#### **Risk Adjustment & Data Validation.**

- ACAP urges CMS to delay risk adjustment and risk adjustment data validation submission deadlines given the operational delays necessitated by provider office closings and plans' real-time adjustment of operational activities in order to best respond to their enrollees and providers needs.

### **Overarching Policy**

#### **Delay Interoperability Rule, Plus Provide Funding to States and Health Plans for Interoperability Implementation.**

- ACAP urges HHS to delay implementation of the interoperability rules.
- ACAP has urged Congress to provide funding to states and health plans to implement the rules, and asks HHS to work with Congress to ensure that it is used for appropriate technical support.

If you have any questions or you would like to discuss these issues in greater depth, please contact me, Jennifer McGuigan Babcock for Medicaid policy ([jbabcock@communityplans.net](mailto:jbabcock@communityplans.net)), Christine Lynch for Medicare policy ([clynch@communityplans.net](mailto:clynch@communityplans.net)), or Heather Foster for Marketplace policy ([hfooster@communityplans.net](mailto:hfooster@communityplans.net)).

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

**Meg Murray**  
**CEO**

Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
1155 15th Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005

202.204.7509 | (b)(6) *mobile*

[www.communityplans.net](http://www.communityplans.net) | [@safetynetplans](https://twitter.com/safetynetplans)



---

**From:** Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 3/28/2020 5:26:34 PM +0000  
**To:** "Schinderle, Elizabeth (CMS/OC)" <elizabeth.schinderle@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM)" <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; "Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM)" <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>; "Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)" <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA)" <Nisha.Bhat@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM)" <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM)" <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: Media: COVID/Home Health Questions

(b)(5)

On Mar 28, 2020, at 12:57 PM, Spence, Ashley N. (CMS/CCSQ) <Ashley.Spence@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

+ a few others from QSOG

---

**From:** Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 12:50 PM  
**To:** Schinderle, Elizabeth (CMS/OC) <elizabeth.schinderle@cms.hhs.gov>; Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>; Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Spence, Ashley N. (CMS/CCSQ) <Ashley.Spence@cms.hhs.gov>; Richards, Adam C. (CMS/CCSQ) <Adam.Richards@cms.hhs.gov>; Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ) <jeneen.iwugo@cms.hhs.gov>; Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA) <Nisha.Bhat@cms.hhs.gov>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; Bennett, Jason (CMS/CM) <Jason.Bennett@cms.hhs.gov>; Kranacs, Jeanette L. (CMS/CM) <Jeanette.Kranacs@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Media: COVID/Home Health Questions

+Jason and Jeanette to see if they have anything that should be added.

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---

**From:** Schinderle, Elizabeth (CMS/OC)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 12:45 PM

**To:** Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM) <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) <Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov>; Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>; Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Spence, Ashley N. (CMS/CCSQ) <Ashley.Spence@cms.hhs.gov>; Richards, Adam C. (CMS/CCSQ) <Adam.Richards@cms.hhs.gov>; Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ) <jeneen.iwugo@cms.hhs.gov>; Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA) <Nisha.Bhat@cms.hhs.gov>; Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Media: COVID/Home Health Questions

Good Afternoon,

Could the team kindly assist with a response to an inquiry we received from Megan McArdle, her deadline is (b)(5). I have included a start to a response (based upon a previously cleared statement). However, we wanted to check in with you all for your thoughts. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

As always, thanks for your help!

Best,  
Liz

Inquiry:

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5)

-

-  
**Elizabeth A. Schinderle** | U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 600 | Chicago, Illinois 60601 | 📞: (312) 886-0945 | 📠: (443) 380-6745 |  
✉️: [elizabeth.schinderle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.schinderle@cms.hhs.gov)

---

**From:** Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov  
**Sent:** 3/18/2020 2:37:25 PM +0000  
**To:** "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>;  
"Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)" <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Logan, Brett (CMS/OA)" <Brett.Logan@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fwd: Letter from Clinical Labs Serving Nursing Facilities  
**Attachments:** NASL\_FINAL\_ClinicalLabLetterto CMS PDF.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "cynthia@nasl.org" <cynthia@nasl.org>  
**Date:** March 18, 2020 at 9:12:53 AM EDT  
**To:** "Verma, Seema (CMS/OA)" <Seema.Verma@cms.hhs.gov>, "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)" <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>, "brett.giroir@cms.hhs.gov" <brett.giroir@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject: Letter from Clinical Labs Serving Nursing Facilities**

Dear Administrator Verma,

We very much appreciate the attention that CMS is giving to the nursing facility patients and facilities in the country. The communication and information released from the agenda has been very helpful.

Attached is a letter from the clinical labs that currently provide lab testing to nursing facilities for the country. We request a phone call with you and or your staff to discuss how we are serving the nursing facilities around the country and some assistance that we need to maintain this vital network. Please see the attached letter.  
Thank you very much for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Morton  
Cynthia K. Morton, MPA  
Executive Vice President  
National Assoc. for the Support of LTC

(b)(6) mobile

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=01a0a3c1-5df5aad2-01a092fe-0cc47adb5650-0560aff84dd6ce6&u=http://www.nasl.org/> @NASLdc

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 3/7/2020 2:20:40 AM +0000  
**To:** "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)" <Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: For Review and Approval: Reactive Statement for CMS WA Surveyors/Survey

(b)(5) Any requests? (b)(5)  
(b)(5) Jean please make sure this happens

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2020, at 8:10 PM, Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC) <[Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Administrator –

The team has worked on a reactive holding statement and some follow-up responses for any potential media inquiries on the CMS survey team. This has been cleared by key CMS offices and OGC and (b)(5)

Please let us know if you have any edits or feedback.

Thanks,

Kelly

**DRAFT REACTIVE STATEMENT**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Page 3 redacted for the following reason:  
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Attached is the Nursing Home memo with revised guidance (changes are in red/italics). This includes suggestions from Shari and Patti Meier, but they are still reviewing the full document. We sent this to the CDC this afternoon and I just received their feedback (while on this call). I skimmed through their feedback and while they recommended some changes, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Happy to answer any questions.

Thanks,  
Evan

Evan Shulman  
Director, Division of Nursing Homes  
Quality Safety and Oversight Group  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

<QSO20-14. COVID-19 Nursing Homes - REVISED NIAID.docx>



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 3/11/2020 5:09:12 PM +0000  
**To:** "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: AHCA guidance vs. CMS guidance  
(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2020, at 12:20 PM, Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

(b)(5)

Matthew Hittle  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Desk: 202-690-6754  
Cell (b)(6)

*Deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

---

**From** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <[jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: AHCA guidance vs. CMS guidance

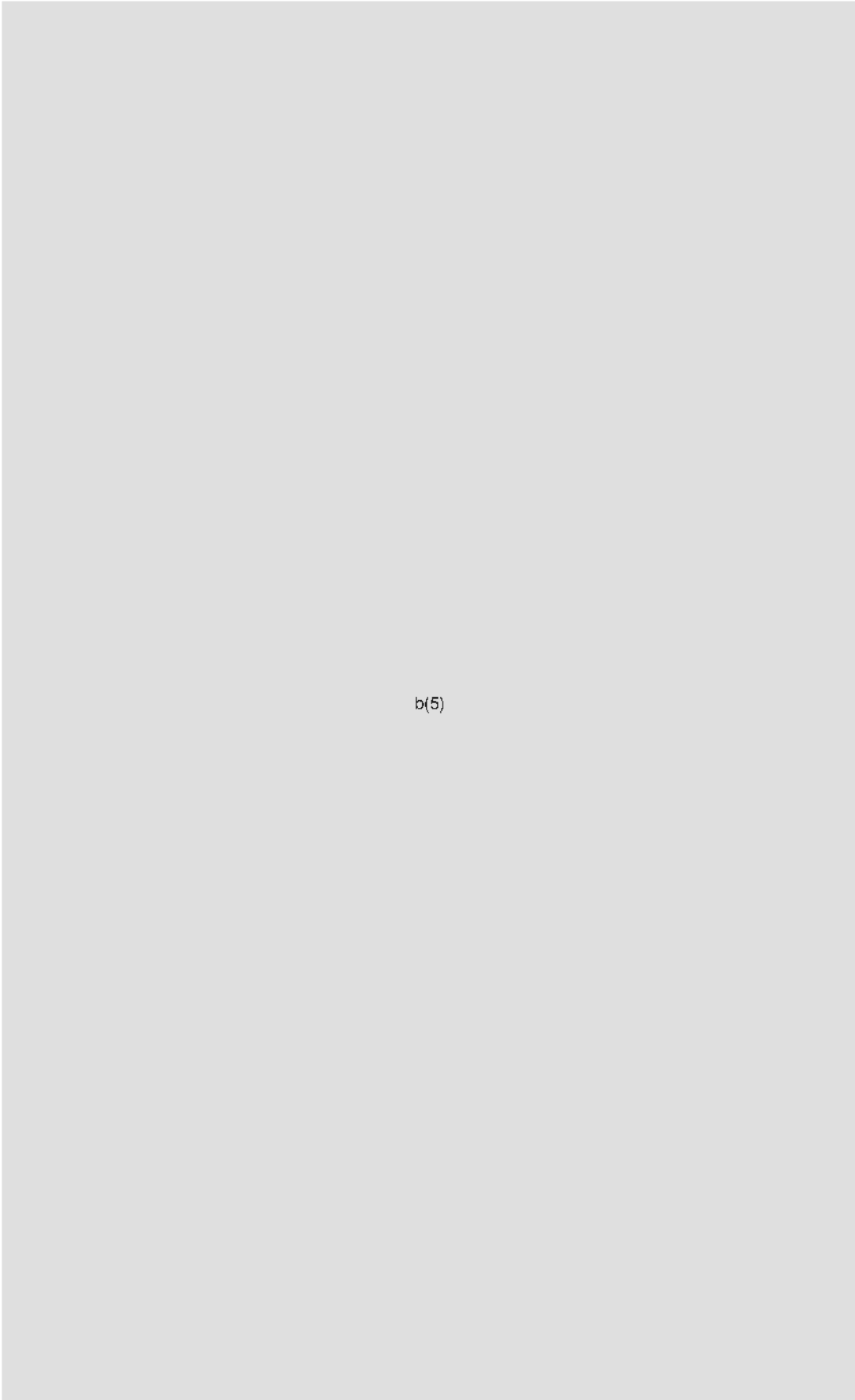
Great work. (b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2020, at 11:41 AM, Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <[Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Seema – (b)(5)

(b)(5)



b(5)

Matthew Hittle  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Desk: 202-690-6754  
Cell: (b)(6)

*Deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

<Guidance Variations 1 pager.pdf>

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 3/6/2020 5:00:29 AM +0000  
**To:** "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bell, Damian (CMS/OC)" <Damian.Bell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)" <Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: Atlanta Travel Details

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 5, 2020, at 8:18 PM, Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <[Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov)> wrote:

Seema - we are still waiting for the WH travel memo but this is what I know so far about our trip tomorrow. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

## **CDC ATLANTA VISIT** **ADMINISTRATOR'S VISIT SCHEDULE**

**Friday March 5, 2020**

(b)(5)

Page 9 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5), (b)(6)

Attendees:

- Administrator Verma
- Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director, CDC
- Alex Azar
- Brett Giroir
- GA Governor Kemp
- Surgeon General Jerome Adams
- Governor Kemp
- Senator David Perdue
- Senator Johnny Isakson
- GA Members of Congress (TBD)
- Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety
- Commissioner of Public Health
- Local health systems
- Professor at Emory University
- John Hauptert, FACHE, CEO, Grady Health System

(b)(5)

**BACKGROUND**

**3 WHITE HOUSE GOALS OF THE TRIP –**

(b)(5)

**REGIONAL HOT ISSUES**

**Immediate Jeopardies**

(b)(5)

**CMCS Draft Talking Points for ASV visit to CDC**

(b)(5)

Page 12 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)



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**Appointment Title:** COVID-19 Workgroup Check-In

**Organizer:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)

**Attendees:** Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL) (Jennifer.Druckman@cms.hhs.gov); Costello, Anne Marie (CMS/CMCS); Meredith Good-Cohn (CMS/OA) (Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov); Blackstock, Sheila C. (CMS/CCSQ); Sartin, Shannon (CMS/OA); Diana Perez-Rivera (diana.perez-rivera@cms.hhs.gov); Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA); Giberson, Scott F. (CMS/OHC); Jenkins, Courtney (CMS/OC); Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA); Greene, Mary G. (CMS/CPI); Brown-Ashford, Nina C. (CMS/CMMI); Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA); Robison, Nick (CMS/OA); Schreiber, Michelle (CMS/CCSQ); Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) (Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov); Tripp, Lisa C. (CMS/CCSQ); Ortiz, Gerardo (CMS/CCSQ); Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ); Karen Aldana (CMS/OC) (karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov); Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL); Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ); Alina Czekai (CMS/CMMI) (alina.czekai@cms.hhs.gov); Karen Jackson (karen.jackson1@cms.hhs.gov); Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) (Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov); Jean Moody-Williams (jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov); OConnor, Nancy B. (CMS/OPOLE); Oelschlaeger, Allison M. (CMS/CSP) (Allison.Oelschlaeger@cms.hhs.gov); Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) (Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov); Toomey, Mimi C. (CMS/OC); Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) (elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov); Shields, Karen (CMS/CMCS); Starinsky, Melissa A. (CMS/OAGM); Ursula Gnan (CMS/OA) (Ursula.Gnan@cms.hhs.gov); Wallace, Mary H. (CMS/OC) (Mary.Wallace@cms.hhs.gov); Weber, James W. (CMS/OSSO); Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM); Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) (kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov); Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS); Jennifer Main (Jennifer.Main@cms.hhs.gov); Nicole Marcos (CMS/OL) (nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov); Skip Payne (CMS/OA) (skip.payne@cms.hhs.gov); Bobby Saxon (CMS/CCIIO) (bobby.saxon@cms.hhs.gov); Kelman, Jeffrey A. (CMS/CM) (Jeffrey.Kelman@cms.hhs.gov); Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/CM) (demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov); Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA); Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ); Pace, Sandra M. (CMS/CCSQ); Kelly Caballos (Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov); Damian Bell (CMS/OC) (damian.bell@cms.hhs.gov); Boulanger, Jennifer L. (CMS) (Jennifer.Boulanger@cms.hhs.gov); Randy Pate (randy.pate@cms.hhs.gov); Jeff Wu (Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov); Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM); Calder Lynch (CMS/OA) (calder.lynch@cms.hhs.gov); Peter Nelson (CMS/OA) (peter.nelson@cms.hhs.gov); Couch, Marion (CMS/OA); Johnathan Monroe (CMS/OC) (johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov); Meier, Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO); Anderson, Cyndy (CMS/CCSQ); Dinicola, Kelly A. (CMS/OC); Richards, Barbara K. (CMS/CMCS); Mack, Elizabeth A. (CMS/OSSO); Heard, Derrick L. (CMS/OAGM); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) (Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov); Magnotta, David M. (CMS/OHC); Zajac, Stephanie (CMS/OC); Smith, Linda D. (CMS/CCSQ); Alexander, Alec (CMS/OA); George Mills (george.mills@cms.hhs.gov); Hart, Bradley (CMS/CPI); Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA); Miller, Ruth A. (CMS/OEA) (Ruth.Miller@cms.hhs.gov); Claggett, Karyn E. (CMS/CM); Grant, Jeffrey (CMS/CCIIO); Engelhardt, Tim (CMS/FCHCO) (Tim.Engelhardt@cms.hhs.gov); Tasnim, Misu (CMS/OA); Black, Nicole

L. (CMS/CMCS); Jenny, Brenna (HHS/OGC); Walen, Alyssa (CMS/OC); Christina S. Ritter (CMS/CM) (Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov); Slade, James (CMS/OHI); Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ); Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ); Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ); IngJye.Cheng@CMS.hhs.gov; Uebersax, Julie (CMS/CM); Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI); Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI); Gelzer, Heidi J. (CMS/OA); Armstead, Andrea E. (CMS/OA); Flaherty, Leslie W. (CMS/OA); Olshan, Shana W. (CMS/OIT); Lewis, Carissa (CMS/OL); Amy K. Hennessy (CMS/OC) (Amy.Hennessy@cms.hhs.gov); Shaham, Lauren (CMS/OC); Gutowski, Walter A. (CMS/OC); Franklin, Julie G. (CMS/OC); Venson, Shelby (CMS/OC); Brauer, Randy S. (CMS/OHI); Syrek Jensen, Tamara S. (CMS/CCSQ); McGann, Paul E. (CMS/CCSQ); Monteiro, Anita (CMS/CCSQ); Scott, John A. (CMS/CM); CMS VTC; (b)(6); CMS Administrator; Chapman, Andrea (CMS/OA); Bellios, Toulia (CMS/OA); Cohen, Melissa B. (CMS/OIT); Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC); Pedneau, Emily S. (CMS/CCIO); Chalick-Kaplan, Beth (CMS/CMMI)

**Location:** (b)(6)  
**Start Time:** 3/31/2020 10:00:00 PM +0000  
**End Time:** 3/31/2020 10:30:00 PM +0000  
**Reminder Time:** N/A  
**Reminder Set:** false  
**Duration:** 30 minutes  
**Is Recurring:** false  
**Reccurance Type:** Weekly  
**Reccurance Pattern:** every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
**Response Status:** 3  
**Busy Status:** Busy  
**Attachments:** Disaster Ver Plan Addendum 3 26 20.docx; COVID-19 Uninsured Group Simplified Application\_3 31 20.docx; CMCSRequest for ClearanceWAandVAAdminClaiming 3-30-20 CL.docx; CMCScoverNoteverificationplansimplifiedapplication3-30-20.docx; CMS-9115-F Implementation Timeline COVID-19\_Recommendation\_v2c.docx; Agenda for COVID-19 CMS Meeting\_ April 1.docx; OA Tracker 03.31.pdf

Access Information

1. Please call the following number:  
(b)(6)
2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

Your WebEx Meeting Number: (b)(6)

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<Jennifer.Boulanger@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pate, Randy (CMS/CCIO)"  
<Randy.Pate@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIO)"  
<Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)"  
<Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)"  
<Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Nelson, Peter (CMS/OA)"  
<Peter.Nelson@cms.hhs.gov>; "Couch, Marion (CMS/OA)"  
<Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)"  
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<VTC@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6) CMS  
Administrator <CMSAdministrator@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chapman, Andrea  
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(CMS/OC)" <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pedneau, Emily S. (CMS/CCIO)" <Emily.Pedneau@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chalick-Kaplan, Beth (CMS/CMMI)" <Beth.Chalick-Kaplan@cms.hhs.gov>

**CC:** "Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cheng, Ing Jye (CMS/CM)" <IngJye.Cheng@cms.hhs.gov>; "Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI)" <Charles.Schalm@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI)" <Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov>

**Attendees:** Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL) (Jennifer.Druckman@cms.hhs.gov); Costello, Anne Marie (CMS/CMCS); Meredith Good-Cohn (CMS/OA) (Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov); Blackstock, Sheila C. (CMS/CCSQ); Sartin, Shannon (CMS/OA); Diana Perez-Rivera (diana.perez-rivera@cms.hhs.gov); Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA); Giberson, Scott F. (CMS/OHC); Jenkins, Courtney (CMS/OC); Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA); Greene, Mary G. (CMS/CPI); Brown-Ashford, Nina C. (CMS/CMMI); Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA); Robison, Nick (CMS/OA); Schreiber, Michelle (CMS/CCSQ); Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM) (Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov); Tripp, Lisa C. (CMS/CCSQ); Ortiz, Gerardo (CMS/CCSQ); Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ); Karen Aldana (CMS/OC) (karen.aldana@cms.hhs.gov); Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL); Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ); Alina Czekai (CMS/CMMI) (alina.czekai@cms.hhs.gov); Karen Jackson (karen.jackson1@cms.hhs.gov); Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) (Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov); Jean Moody-Williams (jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov); OConnor, Nancy B. (CMS/OPOLE); Oelschlaeger, Allison M. (CMS/CSP) (Allison.Oelschlaeger@cms.hhs.gov); Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM) (Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov); Toomey, Mimi C. (CMS/OC); Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM) (elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov); Shields, Karen (CMS/CMCS); Starinsky, Melissa A. (CMS/OAGM); Ursula Gnan (CMS/OA) (Ursula.Gnan@cms.hhs.gov); Wallace, Mary H. (CMS/OC) (Mary.Wallace@cms.hhs.gov); Weber, James W. (CMS/OSSO); Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM); Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) (kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov); Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS); Jennifer Main (Jennifer.Main@cms.hhs.gov); Nicole Marcos (CMS/OL) (nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov); Skip Payne (CMS/OA) (skip.payne@cms.hhs.gov); Bobby Saxon (CMS/CCIO) (bobby.saxon@cms.hhs.gov); Kelman, Jeffrey A. (CMS/CM) (Jeffrey.Kelman@cms.hhs.gov); Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/CM) (demetrios.kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov); Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA); Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ); Pace, Sandra M. (CMS/CCSQ); Kelly Caballos (Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov); Damian Bell (CMS/OC) (damian.bell@cms.hhs.gov); Boulanger, Jennifer L. (CMS) (Jennifer.Boulanger@cms.hhs.gov); Randy Pate (randy.pate@cms.hhs.gov); Jeff Wu (Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov); Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM); Calder Lynch (CMS/OA) (calder.lynch@cms.hhs.gov); Peter Nelson (CMS/OA) (peter.nelson@cms.hhs.gov); Couch, Marion (CMS/OA); Johnathan Monroe (CMS/OC) (johnathan.monroe1@cms.hhs.gov); Meier, Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO); Anderson, Cyndy (CMS/CCSQ); Dinicola, Kelly A. (CMS/OC); Richards, Barbara K. (CMS/CMCS); Mack, Elizabeth A. (CMS/OSSO); Heard, Derrick L. (CMS/OAGM); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM) (Diane.Kovach@cms.hhs.gov); Magnotta, David M. (CMS/OHC); Zajac, Stephanie (CMS/OC); Smith, Linda D. (CMS/CCSQ); Alexander, Alec (CMS/OA); George Mills

(george.mills@cms.hhs.gov); Hart, Bradley (CMS/CPI); Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA); Miller, Ruth A. (CMS/OEA) (Ruth.Miller@cms.hhs.gov); Claggett, Karyn E. (CMS/CM); Grant, Jeffrey (CMS/CCIO); Engelhardt, Tim (CMS/FCHCO) (Tim.Engelhardt@cms.hhs.gov); Tasnim, Misu (CMS/OA); Black, Nicole L. (CMS/CMCS); Jenny, Brenna (HHS/OGC); Walen, Alyssa (CMS/OC); Christina S. Ritter (CMS/CM) (Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov); Slade, James (CMS/OHI); Hayden, Megan R. (CMS/CCSQ); Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ); Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ); IngJye.Cheng@CMS.hhs.gov; Uebersax, Julie (CMS/CM); Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI); Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI); Gelzer, Heidi J. (CMS/OA); Armstead, Andrea E. (CMS/OA); Flaherty, Leslie W. (CMS/OA); Olshan, Shana W. (CMS/OIT); Lewis, Carissa (CMS/OL); Amy K. Hennessy (CMS/OC) (Amy.Hennessy@cms.hhs.gov); Shaham, Lauren (CMS/OC); Gutowski, Walter A. (CMS/OC); Franklin, Julie G. (CMS/OC); Venson, Shelby (CMS/OC); Brauer, Randy S. (CMS/OHI); Syrek Jensen, Tamara S. (CMS/CCSQ); McGann, Paul E. (CMS/CCSQ); Monteiro, Anita (CMS/CCSQ); Scott, John A. (CMS/CM); CMS VTC; (b)(6); CMS Administrator; Chapman, Andrea (CMS/OA); Bellios, Toula (CMS/OA); Cohen, Melissa B. (CMS/OIT); Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC); Pedneau, Emily S. (CMS/CCIO); Chalick-Kaplan, Beth (CMS/CMMI)

**Location:** (b)(6)  
**Start Time:** 3/31/2020 10:00:00 PM +0000  
**End Time:** 3/31/2020 10:30:00 PM +0000  
**Duration:** 30 minutes  
**Reminder Time:** 3/31/2020 10:00:00 PM +0000  
**Is Recurring:** false  
**Recurrence Type:** Weekly  
**Recurrence Pattern:** every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
**Response Status:** 5  
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**Attachments:** Disaster Ver Plan Addendum 3 26 20.docx; COVID-19 Uninsured Group Simplified Application\_3 31 20.docx; CMCSRequest for ClearanceWAandVAAdminClaiming 3-30-20 CL.docx; CMCS Cover Note verification plansimplifiedapplication3-30-20.docx; CMS-9115-F Implementation Timeline COVID-19\_Recommendation\_v2c.docx; Agenda for COVID-19 CMS Meeting\_ April 1.docx; OA Tracker 03.31.pdf

#### Access Information

1. Please call the following number:

WebEx: (b)(6)

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Your WebEx Meeting Number (b)(6)

**Meeting Title:** COVID-19 Workgroup Check-In

**From:** "Perez-Rivera, Diana (CMS/OA)" <Diana.Perez-Rivera@cms.hhs.gov>

**Sent:** 4/6/2020 5:20:56 PM +0000

**To:** CMS Administrator <CMSAdministrator@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA)" <Nisha.Bhat@cms.hhs.gov>; "Nelson, Peter (CMS/OA)" <Peter.Nelson@cms.hhs.gov>; "Giberson, Scott F. (CMS/OHC)" <Scott.Giberson@cms.hhs.gov>; "Jenkins, Courtney (CMS/OC)" <Courtney.Jenkins@cms.hhs.gov>; "Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA)" <Thomas.Corry@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA)" <Anna.Bonelli@cms.hhs.gov>; "Uppal, Rajiv (CMS/OIT)" <Rajiv.Uppal@cms.hhs.gov>; CMS VTC <VTC@cms.hhs.gov>; "Toomey, Mimi C. (CMS/OC)" <Mimi.Toomey@cms.hhs.gov>; "Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)" <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tripp, Lisa C. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Lisa.Tripp@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ortiz, Gerardo (CMS/CCSQ)" <Gerardo.Ortiz@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ)" <Gregg.Brandush@cms.hhs.gov>; "Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC)" <Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov>; "Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL)" <Alec.Aramanda1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brauer, Randy S. (CMS/OHI)" <Randy.Brauer@cms.hhs.gov>; "Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA)" <Kathleen.Cantwell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Clybourn, Olen D. (CMS/OSORA)" <Olen.Clybourn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Costello, Anne Marie (CMS/CMCS)" <AnneMarie.Costello@cms.hhs.gov>; "Dill, Gregory R. (CMS/OPOLE)" <Gregory.Dill@cms.hhs.gov>; "Finch, Wanda (CMS/OMH)" <Wanda.Finch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Gillespie, Craig (CMS/OHC)" <craig.gillespie@cms.hhs.gov>; "Grant, Jeffrey (CMS/CCIO)" <jeffrey.grant1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hammarlund, John T. (CMS/OPOLE)" <john.hammarlund@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hart, Bradley (CMS/OPOLE)" <Bradley.Hart@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hurd, Raymond (CMS/OPOLE)" <Raymond.Hurd@cms.hhs.gov>; "Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ)" <jeneen.iwugo@cms.hhs.gov>; "Jackson, Karen E. (CMS/OA)" <karen.jackson1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Lipp, Michael (CMS/CMMI)" <Michael.Lipp@cms.hhs.gov>; "Mills, George G. (CMS/CPI)" <george.mills@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "OConnor, Nancy B. (CMS/OPOLE)" <Nancy.OConnor@cms.hhs.gov>; "Oelschlaeger, Allison M. (CMS/OEDA)" <Allison.Oelschlaeger@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pinder, Anita A. (CMS/OEOCR)" <Anita.Pinder@cms.hhs.gov>; "Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM)" <Cheri.Rice@cms.hhs.gov>; "Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM)" <elizabeth.richter@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shatto, Andrew E. (CMS/OEDA)" <Andrew.Shatto@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shields, Karen (CMS/CMCS)" <Karen.Shields1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)" <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Starinsky, Melissa A. (CMS/OAGM)" <Melissa.Starinsky1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tabé-Bedward, Arrah A. (CMS/CMMI)" <arrah.tabebeward@cms.hhs.gov>; "Vitolo, Sara (CMS/FCHCO)" <Sara.Vitolo@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wallace, Mary H. (CMS/OC)" <Mary.Wallace@cms.hhs.gov>; "Weber, James W. (CMS/OSSO)" <James.Weber@cms.hhs.gov>; "Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM)" <Megan.Worstell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Gelzer, Heidi J. (CMS/OA)" <heidi.gelzer@cms.hhs.gov>; "Grayson, April (CMS/OA)"

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<April.Grayson@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hitchcock, Angela N. (CMS/OA)"  
<Angela.Hitchcock@cms.hhs.gov>; "Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS)"  
<Rosa.Mack@cms.hhs.gov>; "Main, Jennifer E. (CMS/OA)"  
<Jennifer.Main@cms.hhs.gov>; "Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL)"  
<Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Payne, Skip (CMS/OA)"  
<Skip.Payne@cms.hhs.gov>; "Saxon, Bobby (CMS/CCIO)"  
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<Jeffrey.Kelman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)"  
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<Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bell, Damian (CMS/OC)"  
<Damian.Bell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Boulanger, Jennifer L. (CMS/OL)"  
<Jennifer.Boulanger@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pate, Randy (CMS/CCIO)"  
<Randy.Pate@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIO)"  
<Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; "Schreiber, Michelle (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Michelle.Schreiber@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM)"  
<Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; "Alexander, Alec (CMS/OA)"  
<Alec.Alexander@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bassano, Amy (CMS/CMMI)"  
<amy.bassano@cms.hhs.gov>; "Smith, Brad (CMS/OA)"  
<Brad.Smith@cms.hhs.gov>; "Couch, Marion (CMS/OA)"  
<Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC)"  
<Johnathan.Monroe1@cms.hhs.gov>; "LoPiccolo, Maria (CMS/OC)"  
<Maria.LoPiccolo@cms.hhs.gov>; "Meier, Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO)"  
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<Mark.Hogle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Mack, Elizabeth A. (CMS/OSSO)"  
<Elizabeth.Mack@cms.hhs.gov>; "Magnotta, David M. (CMS/OHC)"  
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<Lillian.Conover@cms.hhs.gov>; "Syrek Jensen, Tamara S.  
(CMS/CCSQ)" <tamara.syrekjensen@cms.hhs.gov>; "McGann, Paul E.  
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(CMS/CCSQ)" <anita.monteiro@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shaham, Lauren (CMS/OC)" <Lauren.Shaham1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Scott, John A. (CMS/CM)" <John.Scott@cms.hhs.gov>; "Butler, Susie E. (CMS/OC)" <Susie.Butler@cms.hhs.gov>; "Costello, Stefanie (CMS/OC)" <Stefanie.Costello@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bellios, Toulia (CMS/OA)" <Toulia.Bellios@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chapman, Andrea (CMS/OA)" <Andrea.Chapman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brown-Ashford, Nina C. (CMS/CMMI)" <Nina.Brown-Ashford@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pedneau, Emily S. (CMS/CCIO)" <Emily.Pedneau@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chalick-Kaplan, Beth (CMS/CMMI)" <Beth.Chalick-Kaplan@cms.hhs.gov>; "Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI)" <Zabeen.Chong@cms.hhs.gov>; "Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI)" <Charles.Schalm@cms.hhs.gov>; "Lewis, Carissa (CMS/OL)" <Carissa.Lewis@cms.hhs.gov>; "Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC)" <Catherine.Howden@cms.hhs.gov>; "James, Merri Ellen (CMS/CPI)" <merriellen.james@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hodges, Kevin (CMS/OEDA)" <Kevin.Hodges@cms.hhs.gov>; "Apostle, Keri (CMS/OEDA)" <Keri.Apostle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bartee, Stephanie A. (CMS/OEDA)" <Stephanie.Bartee@cms.hhs.gov>; "Quinn, Shalon C. (CMS/CCSQ)" <shalon.quinn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Spitalnic, Paul I. (CMS/OACT)" <paul.spitalnic@cms.hhs.gov>

**CC:**

**Attendees:**

"Garcia, Tamyra (CMS/CCSQ)" <Tamyra.Garcia@cms.hhs.gov>  
CMS Administrator; (b)(6) Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA); Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA); Bhat, Nisha (CMS/OA); Nelson, Peter (CMS/OA); Giberson, Scott F. (CMS/OHC); Jenkins, Courtney (CMS/OC); Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA); Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA); Uppal, Rajiv (CMS/OIT); CMS VTC; Toomey, Mimi C. (CMS/OC); Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM); Tripp, Lisa C. (CMS/CCSQ); Ortiz, Gerardo (CMS/CCSQ); Brandush, Gregg (CMS/CCSQ); Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC); Aramanda, Alec (CMS/OL); Brauer, Randy S. (CMS/OHI); Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA); Clybourn, Olen D. (CMS/OSORA); Costello, Anne Marie (CMS/CMCS); Dill, Gregory R. (CMS/OPOLE); Finch, Wanda (CMS/OMH); Gillespie, Craig (CMS/OHC); Grant, Jeffrey (CMS/CCIO); Hammarlund, John T. (CMS/OPOLE); Hart, Bradley (CMS/CPI); Hurd, Raymond (CMS/OPOLE); Iwugo, Jeneen (CMS/CCSQ); Jackson, Karen E. (CMS/OA); Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ); Lipp, Michael (CMS/CMMI); Mills, George G. (CMS/CPI); Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ); OConnor, Nancy B. (CMS/OPOLE); Oelschlaeger, Allison M. (CMS/OEDA); Pinder, Anita A. (CMS/OEOCR); Rice, Cheri M. (CMS/CM); Richter, Elizabeth (CMS/CM); Shatto, Andrew E. (CMS/OEDA); Shields, Karen (CMS/CMCS); Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA); Starinsky, Melissa A. (CMS/OAGM); Tabe-Bedward, Arrah A. (CMS/CMMI); Vitolo, Sara (CMS/FCHCO); Wallace, Mary H. (CMS/OC); Weber, James W. (CMS/OSSO); Worstell, Megan L. (CMS/OFM); Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA); Gelzer, Heidi J. (CMS/OA); Grayson, April (CMS/OA); Hitchcock, Angela N. (CMS/OA); Mack, Rosa (CMS/CMCS); Main, Jennifer E. (CMS/OA); Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL); Payne, Skip (CMS/OA); Saxon, Bobby (CMS/CCIO); Kelman, Jeffrey A. (CMS/CM); Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA); Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ); Kovach, Diane (CMS/CM); Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC); Bell, Damian (CMS/OC); Boulanger, Jennifer L. (CMS/OL); Pate, Randy (CMS/CCIO); Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIO); Schreiber, Michelle (CMS/CCSQ); Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM); Alexander, Alec (CMS/OA); Bassano, Amy (CMS/CMMI); Smith, Brad (CMS/OA); Couch, Marion (CMS/OA); Monroe, Johnathan (CMS/OC); LoPiccolo, Maria (CMS/OC); Meier,



Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO); Anderson, Cyndy (CMS/CCSQ); Hoffmann, George C. (CMS/OIT); Hogle, Mark P. (CMS/OIT); Mack, Elizabeth A. (CMS/OSSO); Magnotta, David M. (CMS/OHC); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Heard, Derrick L. (CMS/OAGM); Richards, Barbara K. (CMS/CMCS); Dinicolo, Kelly A. (CMS/OC); Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL); Alina Czekai (CMS/CMMI) (alina.czekai@cms.hhs.gov); Zajac, Stephanie (CMS/OC); Smith, Linda D. (CMS/CCSQ); Claggett, Karyn E. (CMS/CM); Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ); Engelhardt, Tim (CMS/FCHCO) (Tim.Engelhardt@cms.hhs.gov); Tasnim, Misu (CMS/OA); Uebersax, Julie (CMS/CM); Walen, Alyssa (CMS/OC); Christina S. Ritter (CMS/CM) (Christina.Ritter@cms.hhs.gov); Slade, James (CMS/OHI); Greene, Mary G. (CMS/CPI); Armstead, Andrea E. (CMS/OA); Flaherty, Leslie W. (CMS/OA); Blackstock, Sheila C. (CMS/CCSQ); Olshan, Shana W. (CMS/OIT); Cohen, Melissa B. (CMS/OIT); Conover, Lillian A. (CMS/CMCS); Syrek Jensen, Tamara S. (CMS/CCSQ); McGann, Paul E. (CMS/CCSQ); Monteiro, Anita (CMS/CCSQ); Shaham, Lauren (CMS/OC); Scott, John A. (CMS/CM); Butler, Susie E. (CMS/OC); Costello, Stefanie (CMS/OC); Bellios, Toulia (CMS/OA); Chapman, Andrea (CMS/OA); Brown-Ashford, Nina C. (CMS/CMMI); Pedneau, Emily S. (CMS/CCIO); Chalick-Kaplan, Beth (CMS/CMMI); Tritz, Karen L. (CMS/CCSQ); Chong, Zabeen G. (CMS/CPI); Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI); Lewis, Carissa (CMS/OL); Howden, Catherine (CMS/OC); James, Merri Ellen (CMS/CPI); Hodges, Kevin (CMS/OEDA); Apostle, Keri (CMS/OEDA); Barte, Stephanie A. (CMS/OEDA); Garcia, Tamyra (CMS/CCSQ); Quinn, Shalon C. (CMS/CCSQ); Spitalnic, Paul I. (CMS/OACT)

**Location:** (b)(6)  
**Start Time:** 4/6/2020 5:30:00 PM +0000  
**End Time:** 4/6/2020 6:25:00 PM +0000  
**Duration:** 55 minutes  
**Reminder Time:** 4/6/2020 5:30:00 PM +0000  
**Is Recurring:** false  
**Recurrence Type:** Weekly  
**Recurrence Pattern:** every Monday from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM  
**Response Status:** 5  
**Busy Status:** Tentative  
**Attachments:** Agenda for COVID-19 CMS Meeting\_ April 6\_revised.docx; 1\_3 Day OC Look Ahead for 4.6-4.8 v1.docx; 2\_Resiliency Taskforce Daily Report040520clean.docx; 3\_ICF IID Waiver Request 040620.docx; 4\_Metrics for Consideration - Weekly COVID-19 Report.pdf; 5\_Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey COVID-19 Data Collection.docx; 6\_COVID-QRS and Marketplace Quality Initiatives Memo.docx; 7\_Applicability of diagnoses from telehealth services for risk adjustment....docx; 8\_COVID-19 Memo Long-term Improper Payment Measures 4-3-2020 clean ofm2 ab....docx; Relief Fund Update - 2020-04-05.pptx

**DO NOT FORWARD THIS INVITATION.**

### Access Information

1. Please call the following number:

WebEx: (b)(6)

2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

Your WebEx Meeting Number: (b)(6)

---

**From:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 4/6/2020 1:10:31 AM +0000  
**To:** "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)" <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)"  
<Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIIO)"  
<Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; "Couch, Marion (CMS/OA)"  
<Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)"  
<Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA)"  
<Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**CC:** "Bell, Damian (CMS/OC)" <Damian.Bell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Marcos, Nicole (CMS/OL)" <Nicole.Marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: WH Gov Call Tomorrow  
**Attachments:** Medicare Hospital Flexibility 4-2 v6abbreviated.pptx; WH Governors Call 4.6 for ASV\_BB.docx

Updated version with an abbreviated power point. Both the word and power point document are attached.

*Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

---

**From:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 9:00 PM  
**To:** Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA) <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov> (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIIO) <Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; Couch, Marion (CMS/OA) <Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Damian Bell (CMS/OC) (damian.bell@cms.hhs.gov) <damian.bell@cms.hhs.gov>; 'Nicole Marcos (CMS/OL) (nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov)' <nicole.marcos@cms.hhs.gov>; David R. Wright (CMS/CCSQ) (David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov); Shari Ling (CMS/CCSQ) (Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; Meredith Good-Cohn (CMS/OA) (Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: WH Gov Call (b)(5)

Seema,

Please see attached for the word doc and power point with information from the team based on the topics you said you

(b)(5)  
(b)(5) I have added Damian onto this email so (b)(5)  
(b)(5). I have also attached the combined power point with slides from David and Shari. Shari is looking (b)(5)  
(b)(5)

Thanks,

Brady

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---

**From:** Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA) <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 2:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIIO) <Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov>; Couch, Marion (CMS/OA) <Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: WH Gov Call (b)(5)

Here are some thoughts below - others can add and weigh in.

(b)(5)

Page 25 redacted for the following reason:

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(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 1:16 PM  
**To:** Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <[Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>; Wu, Jeff (CMS/CCIO) <[Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wu@cms.hhs.gov)>; Couch, Marion (CMS/OA) <[Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Marion.Couch@cms.hhs.gov)>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <[Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)>; Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/OA) <[Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetrios.Kouzoukas@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA) <[Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: WH Gov Call (b)(5)

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <[Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <[Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** WH Gov Call (b)(5)

Seema,

The WH has you slated to participate in (b)(5) Governor call (b)(5)  
(b)(5) Please let me know what you would like to take with you. Thanks.

- Administrator Verma provides an update on support to hospitals and the uninsured.

Meredith Good-Cohn

Senior Advisor

Office of the Administrator

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Cell: (b)(6)

[Meredith.good-cohn@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meredith.good-cohn@cms.hhs.gov)

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---

**From:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 3:38:26 AM +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>; "Meier, Patricia A. (CMS/CQISCO)" <Patricia.Meier@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Nursing Home Action Recommendations  
**Attachments:** Actions to Control COVID-19 Transmission in Nursing Homes.1137pm033020.docx

Apologies, adding Patti and also attaching a CLEAN version. Last attachment was redlined.

---

**From:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 11:34 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ) <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA) <matthew.hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ) <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Nursing Home Action Recommendations  
**Importance:** High

Seema - Per your request, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Let us know if you need anything more. Thanks! Team NH

Kimberly Brandt  
Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations and Policy  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



7500 Security Boulevard

Baltimore, MD 21244

410/786-3151

[Kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.brandt1@cms.hhs.gov)

*Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

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**From:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 3:33:53 AM +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**CC:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Wright, David R. (CMS/CCSQ)" <David.Wright@cms.hhs.gov>; "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Shulman, Evan T. (CMS/CCSQ)" <Evan.Shulman@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Nursing Home Action Recommendations  
**Attachments:** Actions to Control COVID-19 Transmission in Nursing Homes (5)-clean.docx

Seema - Per your request, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Let us know if you need anything more. Thanks! Team NH

Kimberly Brandt  
Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations and Policy  
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*Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

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**From:** "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 1:59:20 PM +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**CC:** "Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)" <Matthew.Hittle@cms.hhs.gov>; "Aldana, Karen (CMS/OC)" <Karen.Aldana@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ceballos, Kelly L. (CMS/OC)" <Kelly.Ceballos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Corry, Thomas (CMS/OA)" <Thomas.Corry@cms.hhs.gov>; "Bell, Damian (CMS/OC)" <Damian.Bell@cms.hhs.gov>; "Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ)" <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; "Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ)" <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re: REVISED nursing home action recommendations  
We just got off a call with cdc on this and we have another at 11. Working on exactly what you asked for and (b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 31, 2020, at 9:56 AM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

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**From:** Hittle, Matthew (CMS/OA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:57 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; Moody-Williams, Jean D. (CMS/CCSQ) <jean.moodywilliams@cms.hhs.gov>; Ling, Shari (CMS/CCSQ) <Shari.Ling@cms.hhs.gov>; Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** REVISED nursing home action recommendations  
**Importance:** High

Seema – this newest version incorporates an additional bullet from CDC

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Matthew Hittle  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Desk: 202-690-6754  
Cell: (b)(6)

*Deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

---

**From:** "Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA)" <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** 3/15/2020 3:50:41 PM +0000  
**To:** "Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA)" <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**CC:** "Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA)" <Anna.Bonelli@cms.hhs.gov>; "Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA)" <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; "Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA)" <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov>; "Blackford, Carol W. (CMS/CM)" <Carol.Blackford@cms.hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Weekend State and Medicaid COVID Activity

+ Carol

*Confidential and deliberative, pre-decisional communication*

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**From:** Lynch, Calder (CMS/OA) <Calder.Lynch@cms.hhs.gov >  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:50 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA) <Brady.Brookes@cms.hhs.gov>; Bonelli, Anna (CMS/OA) <Anna.Bonelli@cms.hhs.gov>; Good-Cohn, Meredith (CMS/OA) <Meredith.Good-Cohn@cms.hhs.gov>; Brandt, Kimberly (CMS/OA) <Kimberly.Brandt1@cms.hhs.gov >  
**Subject:** Weekend State and Medicaid COVID Activity

**Pre-Decisional and Deliberative Communication**

Seema,

We'll report these up but I wanted to make sure you had some visibility into the state requests that have been filtering in over the weekend. We've had activity on both the 1115 and 1135 front. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

## **State requests:**

### **1135 Waiver Activity**

**Florida** submitted an 1135 waiver request on Friday night.

- The request includes:
  - Blanket waiver of prior authorization
  - Waiver of PASSR (nursing home pre-admission screening)
  - Ability to postpone fair hearings
  - Waiver of screening requirements for provider enrollment

(b)(5)

**Rhode Island** has submitted a letter requesting to delay renewals and extend timelines for fair hearings or conducting them virtually. (b)(5) needed.

### **1115 Waiver Activity**

**Florida** also submitted a request for 1115 authority. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Request includes:

- Extend annual certification periods
- Allow for a simplified Medicaid application process with self-attestation
- Waive cost sharing requirements for both FFS and managed care recipients
- Exceed service limits (hospital days, physician visits, etc.)
- Expand telemedicine
- Expand provider qualifications - (e.g., enrolling first responders to collect specimens for testing)
- Adopt/expand hospital presumptive eligibility determinations to additional

groups covered under the SPA

- o Expand eligibility for the uninsured just for testing and treatment of COVID-19

We also received a comprehensive 1115 request from **Colorado**, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

- o Continued eligibility for all Medicaid and CHIP enrollees with no redetermination for period of demo (6 months beyond end of the public health emergency (PHE))
- o Extend Medicaid coverage for uninsured for COVID and related testing and treatment, with no income, asset, or residency restrictions. Accept self-attestation for all eligibility criteria.
- o Use Medicaid to pay for housing for the homeless
- o Various other flexibilities related to level of care requirements, assessments, reimbursement, telemedicine, provider enrollment
- o No application of budget neutrality requirements
- o 100% FMAP for all related costs, including housing for homeless (b)(5)

(b)(5)

**Tennessee** has also expressed a verbal interest in submitting an 1115 for authority to pay for testing and treatment for uninsured COVID patients. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

## Other

**Washington** SMD has reached out regarding HIPAA flexibilities related to virtual mental health visits. They are working with ONC on this apparently. Also received outreach from SAMSHA urging us to help. I looped in Kim (b)(5)

--

## Calder Lynch

Deputy Administrator and Director

CMS / Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services

Office: (202) 690-7428

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"Motsiopoulos, Diana S. (CMS/CM)"  
<Diana.Motsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov>; "Schalm, Charles F. (CMS/CPI)"  
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<Karen.Tritz@cms.hhs.gov>; "Zale, Amy M. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Amy.Zale@cms.hhs.gov>; "Van Brakle, Regina S. (CMS/CCSQ)"  
<Regina.VanBrakle@cms.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)  
CMS Administrator <CMSAdministrator@cms.hhs.gov>; "Pedneau, Emily  
S. (CMS/CCIO)" <Emily.Pedneau@cms.hhs.gov>; "Chalick-Kaplan, Beth  
(CMS/CMMI)" <Beth.Chalick-Kaplan@cms.hhs.gov>

**Start Time:** 4/1/2020 2:30:00 PM +0000  
**End Time:** 4/1/2020 4:00:00 PM +0000  
**Reminder Time:** 4/1/2020 2:30:00 PM +0000  
**Is Recurring:** false  
**Recurrence Type:** Weekly  
**Busy Status:** Tentative  
**Attachments:** Disaster Ver Plan Addendum 3 26 20.docx; COVID-19 Uninsured Group Simplified Application\_3 31 20.docx; CMCSRequest for ClearanceWAandVAAdminClaiming 3-30-20 CL.docx; CMCScoverNoteverificationplansimplifiedapplication3-30-20.docx; CMS-9115-F Implementation Timeline COVID-19\_Recommendation\_v2c.docx; Agenda for COVID-19 CMS Meeting\_ April 1.docx; CMS Dear Clinician Letter FINAL 3 27 2020.docx; DRAFT\_FINAL v3\_03.26.20\_CMS recommendations\_Non-emergent Elective Treatm...\_docx; COVID-19 Memo Long-term Improper Payment Measures 3-30-2020 (clean).docx; 3 Day Look Ahead for 4.1 -4.3 v1.docx; COVID Data Plan.docx

**DO NOT FORWARD THIS INVITATION.**

(b)(6)