

April 2, 2020

**ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
M E M O R A N D U M**

SUBJECT: UPDATE: Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program FAQs

As a follow up to our earlier memo, we are providing new, updated information on the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program. Several members have reached out to us with questions regarding the application process for this program. Our most up-to-date information follows. Please refer to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [fact sheet](#) for additional information.

- Q: Is there a deadline for applying for Medicare accelerated payments related to COVID-19?
 - A: No, hospitals may apply at any time.
- Q: If I do not apply immediately for an accelerated payment, will the pool of money run out?
 - A: Hospitals do not need to apply immediately. The Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program is not tied to a specific pool of money. This is a cash advance that must either be recouped or reconciled.
- Q: What entity determines the amount of money hospitals are eligible to request?
 - A: The provider determines the amount of money they want to request.
- Q: Is the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program limited to inpatient Medicare fee-for-service payments?
 - A: No, it is our interpretation that outpatient services are eligible for inclusion in each hospital's application.
- Q: Can I submit one application for my entire hospital?
 - A: National Government Services (NGS) advises there should be one application per Medicare provider number; however, they encourage hospitals to call their applicable Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) COVID-19 hotline to ensure the proper process for each situation.
- Q: The eligibility criteria listed on the application from my MAC differs from the eligibility criteria in CMS' [fact sheet](#). Which set of criteria applies?
 - A: On March 31, NGS informed providers that they did not alter their typical Medicare accelerated payment program application to be specific to COVID-19. As such, there are details on the application which do not apply to hospitals applying for accelerated payment related to COVID-19. Please refer to the CMS [fact sheet](#) for eligibility criteria.
- Q: Does the application process require hospitals to submit a cash flow statement?

- A: No, you do not need to submit a cash flow report for COVID-19 related Medicare accelerated payments.
- Q: What information must a hospital provide in the letter that accompanies the application?
 - A: On March 31, NGS stated that applicants must make clear that they are applying for accelerated payments because of the financial strain placed on their hospital by the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Q: How long will it take for applications to be processed?
 - A: MACs will work to review and issue payments within seven calendar days of receiving the application.
- Q: How will funds be received?
 - A: Hospitals will receive funds in the same way they currently receive funds from their MAC.
- Q: Any special considerations for hospitals receiving payments via the Periodic Interim Payments methodology?
 - A: No, there are no special considerations for PIP hospitals. PIP hospitals are also eligible to participate in the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program.

All hospitals and health systems are urged to call their respective MAC if they have specific questions about the application process.

National Government Services (NGS)

Toll-free Hotline Telephone Number: 1-888-802-3898

Hours of Operation: 8:00am-4:00pm central, seven days per week

NGS application is [here](#)

Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS)

Toll-free Hotline Telephone Number: 1-844-209-2567

Hours of Operation: 7:00am-4:00pm central, Monday - Friday

WPS application is [here](#)

IHA strongly urges all member hospitals and health systems to develop a way to track all COVID-19 related expenses and losses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a [tool](#) that may be of use to providers looking for guidance in this area.

Additional information on the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program and other sources of federal funding for which a hospital must **apply** can be found [here](#). A companion resource document identifying *automatic* federal fiscal relief is available [here](#). Further information and resources on COVID-19 can be found on IHA's [website](#). These documents will be updated as more information on federal funding sources becomes available.