



CMS to Offer Accelerated and Advance Medicare Payments Amid COVID-19 Emergency

Updated April 27, 2020

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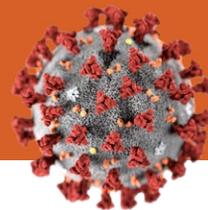
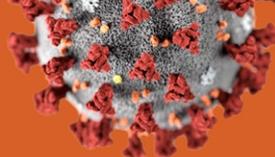
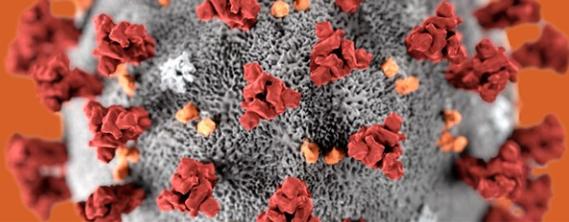
UPDATE

Beginning April 26, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will not be accepting any new applications for the Advance Payment Program, and it will be reevaluating all pending and new applications for Accelerated Payments in light of historical direct payments made available through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Provider Relief Fund. [More information is available in this fact sheet.](#)

CMS announced an expansion of its accelerated and advance payment program for Medicare participating healthcare providers and suppliers to help provide additional resources during the COVID-19 crisis.

Accelerated and advance Medicare payments are intended to provide emergency funding and address cash flow issues based on historical payments when there is disruption in claims submission and/or claims processing. In this situation, CMS is expanding the program for all Medicare providers throughout the country during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The full details of CMS' announcement, including information about the application process, are available in the [fact sheet here](#). Some highlights from the fact sheet are provided below. According to CMS, more information can also be accessed through [First Coast Service Options \(FCSO\)](#), the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for Florida.



Eligibility: According to CMS, to be eligible, a provider 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.

Amount of Payment: Qualified providers/suppliers will be asked to request a specific amount using an Accelerated or Advance Payment Request form provided on each MAC's website. Most providers and suppliers will be able to request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period.

Processing Time: Each MAC will work to review and issue payments within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the request.

Repayment: CMS has extended the repayment of these accelerated/advance payments to begin 120 days after the date of issuance of the payment. The repayment timeline is broken out by provider type. [Access the fact sheet for more details.](#)

Recoupment and Reconciliation: The provider/supplier can continue to submit claims as usual after the issuance of the accelerated or advance payment; however, recoupment will not begin for 120 days. Providers/suppliers will receive full payments for their claims during the 120-day delay period. At the end of the 120-day period, the recoupment process will

begin, and every claim submitted by the provider/supplier will be offset from the new claims to repay the accelerated/advanced payment. Thus, instead of receiving payment for newly submitted claims, the provider's/supplier's outstanding accelerated/advance payment balance is reduced by the claim payment amount. This process is automatic.

The majority of hospitals, including inpatient acute care hospitals, children's hospitals, certain cancer hospitals, and critical access hospitals, will have up to one year from the date the accelerated payment was made to repay the balance. That means one year after the accelerated payment, the MACs will perform a manual check to determine if there is a balance remaining, and if so, the MACs will send a request for repayment of the remaining balance, which will be collected by direct payment. All other Part A providers not listed above and Part B suppliers will have up to 210 days for the reconciliation process to begin.

More Information / How to Apply:

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.

A CMS fact sheet explaining the accelerated/advance payment process and how to submit a request [can be found here.](#)

[Read the CMS Policy Announcement here.](#)

