

*Please reach out to your VillageMD market leader with questions and concerns.*

Below is this week's government and legislative affairs update. All previous legislative guidance and other affiliate resources are stored via the [VillageMD Affiliated Practices COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) [released long-awaited guidance](#) that included amounts Medicare would pay for antibody tests. These amounts are broken out by MAC jurisdiction in the attached guidance. The two CPT codes for serology tests are meant to distinguish between single-step and multi-step processes. Specifically, the guidance addresses how much CMS will pay for:
  - CPT code 87635 for infectious agent detection by nucleic acid tests (\$51.31)
  - CPT codes 86769 and 86328 for serology tests (\$42.13/\$45.23)
- The Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH), which represents private employers and public purchasers spending more than \$100 billion annually on health care, was joined by 35 organizations representing many of the nation's leading private and public sector employers in issuing a letter to congressional leaders requesting they take immediate action to ensure Americans have access to high-quality, affordable health care both now and long after the COVID-19 pandemic ends. The joint [letter](#) offers recommendations to achieve the following goals:
  - Protect patients and providers by strengthening access to primary care services
  - Protect consumers and employers from price gouging, surprise billing and unwarranted price increases
  - Protect taxpayers by ensuring accountability and transparency of federal funds for providers
  - Protect workers by providing coverage for those who have been laid-off and furloughed
  - Protect self-insured employers and health plans by offering insurance market risk mitigation arrangements
- Senate Democrats Sheehy, Warner and Jones introduced healthcare/insurance expansion legislative response to COVID-19
- President Trump [announced](#) and Executive Order on asking Agencies for COVID-19 Waivers that would speed economy's growth
- Nursing Homes [received](#) next wave of \$4.9B from Emergency/CARES Grants
- CMMI Director Brad Smith discussed commitment to Direct Contracting. There will be more announcements on the DC program coming in the next few weeks
- CMS [released](#) final Medicare Advantage and Part D payment rule, allowing for increased flexibilities for telehealth services and ESRD patients who want to be in MA program
- American College of Surgeons sent a letter to Congress in support of directing funds specifically to primary care providers in the next round of CARES funding
- GAO Report [found](#) Nursing Homes had infection control issues before COVID-19
- Cassidy and Menedez [introduced](#) legislation to help funding to states