

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

- The administration distributed \$30B of the \$100B Public Health Fund / CARES Act in the form of direct payments to Medicare providers this week, with Medicaid and rural providers up next.
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) sent a [letter](#) to colleagues calling on them to bring a “CARES 2” package to the floor by the end of April.
- This week, Senate Republicans proposed \$250B in new money for the Paycheck Protection Program, and Democrats called for additional funding for hospitals and state and local government.
- CMS released 2021 rates for Medicare Advantage and Part D final rule, which increase payment rates for MA plans by 1.66%.
- Senators sent a [letter](#) to CMS urging the agency to modify or waive the 10.25% interest rate on Medicare payments; CMS has said it does not have the authority to do so.
- HHS issued [guidance](#) authorizing licensed pharmacists to order and administer approved COVID-19 tests.
- CMS posted a [letter to clinicians](#) that includes information about telehealth and virtual visits, accelerated and advance payments, and recent waiver information.
- CMS [issued new recommendations](#) to state and local governments, as well as nursing homes, on ways to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- CMS announced that it is delaying the start of the [Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport \(ET3\) Model](#) from May 1, 2020 to an unspecified date this fall.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued [interim guidance](#) regarding essential workers returning to work after potential exposure to COVID-19.
- The Department of the Treasury issued a set of [frequently asked questions](#) regarding the Paycheck Protection Program.