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**Subject:** CMS Kansas City COVID-19 Guidance



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## **Relief for Clinicians, Providers, Hospitals and Facilities Participating in Quality Reporting Programs in Response to COVID-19**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) announced it is granting exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for clinicians and providers participating in Medicare quality reporting programs with respect to upcoming measure reporting and data submission for those programs. The action comes as part of the Trump Administration's response to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

CMS is implementing additional extreme and uncontrollable circumstances policy exceptions and extensions for upcoming measure reporting and data submission deadlines for several CMS programs. For those programs with data submission deadlines in April and May 2020, submission of those data will be optional, based on the facility's choice to report.

CMS recognizes that quality measure data collection and reporting for services furnished during this time period may not be reflective of their true level of performance on measures such as cost, readmissions and patient experience during this time of emergency and seeks to hold organizations harmless for not submitting data during this period.

You can find a copy of the press release here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>

CMS will continue monitoring the developing COVID-19 situation and assess options to additional relief to clinicians, facilities, and their staff so they can focus on caring for patients.

This action, and earlier CMS actions in response to COVID-19, are part of the ongoing House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, please visit [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov). For a complete and updated list of CMS actions, and other information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Webpage](#) on [CMS.Gov](https://www.cms.gov).

## **COVID-19 Provider Enrollment Relief FAQs**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) released Frequently Asked Questions on Medicare Provider Enrollment Relief related to COVID-19 including the toll-free hotlines available to provide expedited enrollment and answer questions related to COVID-19 enrollment requirements.

A copy of the FAQs can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/provider-enrollment-relief-faqs-covid-19.pdf>

These tools, and earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 emergency, are all part of ongoing White House Coronavirus Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, please visit [www.coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov). For a complete and updated list of CMS actions, guidance, and other information in response to COVID-19, please visit the, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).

## **CMS Announces Findings at Kirkland Nursing Home and New Targeted Plan for Healthcare Facility Inspections in light of COVID-19**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing the preliminary results of a recent inspection of the Life Care Center nursing home in Kirkland, Washington – the epicenter of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in that state. The inspection, which the Agency conducted with the Washington Department of Social & Health Services, has helped inform CMS's national strategy for keeping patients safe in nursing homes and other healthcare facilities. In keeping with the Trump Administration's aggressive moves to combat further spread of COVID-19, CMS is also utilizing flexibilities allowed by President Trump's Emergency Declaration to announce an enhanced, focused inspection process, informed in part by the Agency's experiences on the ground in

Kirkland, and close coordination and input from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This focused inspection process will be provided to all inspectors and facilities, and used on a national scale. Critically, this focused inspection process includes a self-assessment tool for providers to employ.

You can find a copy of the press release here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-findings-kirkland-nursing-home-and-new-targeted-plan-healthcare-facility-inspections>. Please note that links to the guidance can be found in the press release.

You can find a copy of the fact sheet here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/kirkland-washington-update-and-survey-prioritization-fact-sheet>

And Talking Points- CMS Administrator Seema Verma's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery: Updates on Healthcare Facility Inspections in light of COVID-19- <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-administrator-seema-vermas-remarks-prepared-delivery-updates-healthcare-facility-inspections>

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 [www.coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov). For information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).

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