

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE

— June 26, 2020 —

COVID-19

INCREASED FMAP ALLOCATIONS FOR COUNTIES AS RESULT OF COVID-19

The Department of Health announced \$323 million in January to June 2020 enhanced Medicaid matching funds to be allocated to NY Counties. The 6.9 percent increase in funding was provided for in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Allocation amounts accessible through the DOH press release are estimates, with final figures pending further changes to federal guidelines.

See press release here:
https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/2020-06-25_counties_across_the_state_to_receive.htm

COVID-19 PROVIDER RELIEF FUND PORTAL

OMH is encouraging Medicaid-funded providers to apply for funding through the HHS application portal. HHS expects to distribute \$15 billion to eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers who have not yet received COVID-19 Provider Relief Funds. Provider payments will be at least 2 percent of reported gross revenue from patient care, based on data that must be submitted by July 20, 2020.

For more information, please review the Medicaid/CHIP Provider Relief Fund Payment Forms and Guidance section of this website:

Access the regulation here:
<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/for-providers/index.html>

FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT AND CARES ACT FAQs

CMS has published FAQs regarding implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (the FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the CARES Act). Access the FAQs here:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/FF-CRA-Part-43-FAQs.pdf>

OTHER FEDERAL ACTIONS

DUR AND VBP FOR MEDICAID DRUGS

HHS issued a rule: *Establishing Minimum Standards in Medicaid State Drug Utilization Review (DUR) and Supporting Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) for Drugs Covered in Medicaid, Revising Medicaid Drug Rebate and Third Party Liability (TPL) Requirements*. The rule is intended to provide states flexibility in entering into VBP arrangements with drug manufacturers and, accordingly, it revises a series of regulations. Comments will be accepted for thirty days since publication of the rule on June 19. View the proposed rule and learn more about how to comment here:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-12970.pdf>

STUDIES

PWC STUDY: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EMPLOYER HEALTH COSTS

The Health Research Institute of PwC has developed three scenarios, based on how the pandemic may affect the U.S. during the rest of the year, to predict the rise in medical costs for 2021.

The report broadly describes the three scenarios this way:

- High-spending scenario: Spending grows significantly higher in 2021 after being down in 2020.
- Medium-spending scenario: Spending grows at roughly the same rate in 2021 as it did from 2014 to 2019 and was expected to in 2020.
- Low-spending scenario: Spending remains dampened in 2021.

Access the report and related data here:

<https://www.pwc.com/us/en/industries/health-industries/library/behind-the-numbers.html>

On July 9 at 1 pm, PwC is hosting a webinar called Medical Cost Trend in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Use the link below to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4315924333796/WN_S2Pj-8fLSQ7K40s74MO21Tw

RESOURCES

Find guidance regarding quarantine restrictions on travelers entering New York from states with high incidence of COVID-19 here:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/interimguidance_traveladvisory.pdf

Please note Exemptions for First Responders and Essential Workers on page 3.

Visit <https://forward.ny.gov> for updates on phased regional reopening and industry specific guidance.

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