



HHS Emergency Fund Grants – What Physicians Need to Know

On Friday, April 10, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the immediate disbursement of \$30 billion to hospitals, physicians, and other health care practitioners. These are payments, not loans, and will not need to be repaid.

Who Gets the Funds?

- All facilities and practitioners that received Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) payments in 2019
- Any facility or practitioner that provides diagnosis, testing, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19; care does not have to be specific to COVID-19, and HHS had adopted the broad view that every patient is a possible case of COVID-19.

What Do I Need to Do?

- Funds were disbursed automatically via UnitedHealthGroup and Optum Bank with "HHSPAYMENT" as the payment description on April 10.
- Within 30 days, [you must sign an attestation via the HHS online portal.](#)

What Am I Agreeing to in the Attestation?

Among other [terms and conditions](#), the recipient must attest that:

- You are not currently suspended or terminated from Medicare participation.
- The payment will only be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus and to reimburse the facility or practitioner for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to the crisis.
- You will not seek collection of out-of-pocket payments from a COVID-19 patient that is greater than what the patient would have otherwise been required to pay an in-network provider (this stipulation will allow patients to see any available health care provider, even those who are out-of-network, as capacity constraints arise).

How Are the Funds Calculated?

- Disbursements are based on a facility's or practitioner's total Medicare FFS payments in 2019.
- Total Medicare FFS payments in 2019 were approximately \$484 billion; HHS disbursements can be estimated by dividing a practice's total 2019 Medicare FFS payments by \$484 billion, then multiplying that ratio by \$30 billion.

What's Next?

- The \$30 billion disbursement is the first part of the \$100 billion allocated by Congress to provide relief to health care practitioners as part of the CARES Act.
- The Administration is working on targeted distributions of the remaining funds and has ensured transparency in the process.

Where Can I Find More Details?

- Visit the HHS website at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html>.
- If you have questions about your disbursement, call UnitedHealthGroup at 1-866-204-0911.