



Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

Please complete MaineMDA Survey

The Maine Medical Directors Association would first like to thank all Maine facilities for their commitment to resident health and safety during this COVID-19 pandemic. MMDA has requested information on testing strategies and common practices to be able to best synthesize the common Maine approaches and ask that your facility infection preventionist or other designated individual complete this short 3 minute survey. We thank you for your attention and time to this request. You can access this survey by clicking the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BY73ZWX>.

Additional \$20 Billion to be Distributed to Medicare Providers today

HHS allocated another \$20 billion today to all Medicare providers. Members may have received a check already and if not, should over the next week. **HHS intends to send checks to Medicaid-only providers but is not doing so in this payment.** We will continue to work with HHS to develop the system to get those funds distributed. The notice from HHS is confusing, but here is the explanation. Combined with the \$30 billion two weeks ago, with this \$20 billion payment, HHS has now paid \$50 billion to Medicare providers. Here is the formula:

- Start with \$2.5 trillion, which is what they calculate as the spend for all Medicare providers.
- Divide each provider's revenue by \$2.5 trillion to get the percentage attributable to each building.
- Multiply the provider's percentage by \$50 billion (the full amount of payments to all providers) to determine the amount for each provider.
- For the payments going out this week, HHS is then deducting the amount distributed two weeks ago to determine the final payment.

Or:

- $([\text{Facility's 2018 Net Patient Revenue} \div \$2.5 \text{ Trillion}] \times \$50 \text{ billion}) - \text{Amount given in 1st payment} = \text{New distribution amount}$

HHS has developed an [FAQ for the Provider Relief Fund](#) with additional details.

State and Federal Waivers

For recent information on federal and state waiver approvals, see MHCA's website as follows:

- [Maine State 1135 Blanket Waiver \(04/24/20\)](#)
- [CMS COVID-19 Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers \(04/23/20\) \(NF SNF see page 9, ICF IID see page 16\)](#)

Maine CDC Director NiravShah acknowledges caregiver grief

In today's daily press briefing, Maine CDC Director, Dr. Nirav Shah reminded the public to

be sensitive to caregiver grief. In reference to outbreaks and losses at Maine's long term care facilities, Dr. Shah expressed concern for families but also for the caregivers who've lost residents, many of whom have become like family. Dr. Shah also indicated that grief counseling and support are being made available specifically to homes with outbreaks. Earlier this week, the state launched its ***FrontLine WarmLine, which can be reached 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week by calling (207) 221-8196 or 866-367-4440.*** See also the [attached flyer](#) from the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, which provides information on ways to support staff through times of crisis.

Thank you for all you do to care for your residents and staff.

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