FCAAP RESPONSE TO COVID-19

D. PAUL ROBINSON, MD, FAAP
DOUG BELL, ESQ
First recorded outbreak in Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, Hubei Province in China reported in late December 2019

First case in the USA identified January 13, 2020
  • 35-year old man from Washington state
  • Recent travel to Wuhan
  • Hospitalized and recovered

First death in the USA February 6, in Santa Clara County, CA
  • Followed by 2 others in same county
  • All died at home without testing
• Feb 26
  • CDC reports the first case of COVID-19 in someone who had not traveled, in northern CA
  • On same day President Trump named Vice President Pence as leader of the COVID response

• March 1
  • 89 Cases in the USA
  • 2 Cases in FL
Florida’s COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard
Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

Total Cases
52,634

Cumulative Data for Florida Residents:

Positive Residents
51,283

Hospitalizations
9,639

Deaths
2,319

Data is updated every day at approximately 11 A.M. ET. Click here to access and download data.
Information re: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Call to Action - 4.22.20 Now is a critical time to outline the urgent needs of children, families and pediatricians across ...
Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
INCORPORATED IN FLORIDA

Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
INCORPORATED IN FLORIDA

News

Information re: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Posted on April 25 2020 by fcaap-editor

Call to Action — 4.22.20
Now is a critical time to outline the urgent needs of children, families and pediatricians across the country. This week, the AAP did just that and sent this message to congressional leaders, making

In This Section
- News
- Events
- Florida Pediatrician
- News
### Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Tenderloin Tutorials**

**Wendy Chong, CCEP**

**September 2020**

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The Physicians Foundation Announces The Telehealth Initiative to Improve Access to Quality Health Care

CMS Expanded Telehealth Benefits for Medicare Beneficiaries During COVID-19 Outbreak:

Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions

Medicaid State Plan Fee-for-Service Payments for Services Delivered Via Telehealth from CMS

General Medicaid Telehealth Guidance from CMS

AAP Guidance: Telehealth Payer Policy in Response to COVID-19

Telehealth and COVID-19" AAP webinar by Dr. Sue Kressly

"Coding During the COVID-19 Pandemic" AAP webinar by Drs. Jeffrey Linzer & Linda Parsi

AAP Online Telehealth Compendium

AAP Guidance on the Necessary Use of Telehealth During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS):

All CMS Issued Updates

HHS COVID-19 Funding and Guidance Updates 4-6-2020

COVID-19 Stakeholder Call Recording/Transcripts


Additional Background on Regulatory Changes 3.30.20

CMS COVID-19 flexibilities

CMS Approves First State Request for 1135 Medicaid Waiver in Florida

"Florida 1135 Waiver on Medicaid.gov"

Coverage and Benefits Related to COVID-19 Medicaid and CHIP

Medicaid & CHIP COVID-19 FAQs – Updated 3.18.20

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Partner Toolkit

COVID-19 New Tools To Help Speed States' Access to Emergency Flexibilities and Resources

COVID-19 Elective Surgeries and Non-Essential Procedures Recommendations

How Can Medicaid Enhance State Capacity to Respond to COVID-19?" by the Kaiser Family Foundation

Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA):

All AHCA Issued COVID-19 Alerts

Policy Transmittal 2020-18 Re: COVID-19 State of Emergency: Coverage of Services and Other
COVID-19 FORUMS

• Information from many experts on COVID-19
  • Lisa Gwynn and Tommy Schechtman on Telemedicine
  • Mobeen Rathore on ID information
  • Ivan Gonzalez and Brandon Chatani on Clinical Implications (2 sessions)
  • Toni Richards-Rowley and Chip Hart on Business implications
  • Michael Ramsey and Robert Wiskind on Role of the Primary Care Pediatrician
  • Moira Szilyagi and Mobeen Rathore on effects of COVID-19 on children nationally
  • Lisa Cosgrove and Madeline Joseph on effects on private pediatricians and hospital pediatricians
• Weekly E-mail updates
• Emails and conversations on phone w/ AHCA over lack of coverage for telemedicine
  • They supported us to get that covered
• Meeting with AHCA April 21
• Dr. Joseph put together excellent questionnaire with input from entire EC and Tommy Schechtman
• 2nd Meeting with AHCA May 13
OUR ASKS TO AHCA

• Parity for telemedicine visits—DONE
• Payment for telephonic visits—DONE
• Payment for well checks per telemedicine—CONSIDERING
  • With caveat that we will likely have to bring in for PE at a later time
• Medicare payment parity at least until end of year—CONSIDERING but not likely
• Payment for Bright Futures screening codes
• Waiving copays through end of calendar year for Healthy Kids
• Told us what we expected
  • You guys in private practice are really hurting!
    • 78% of you had visits down by >40%
      • 37% had visits down by >60-80%
    • Many of you had been forced to furlough employees
    • 10% of you were considering closing your practices
• Despite HUGE efforts by BIG AAP to help
• And support from some democratic congressmen
• We still hope something will come through
May 5, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington D.C., 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced additional allocations from the initial $100 billion dedicated for health care providers in the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) provided by Congress under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136). In light of this latest distribution, we write to you today regarding our serious concerns about HHS’s continued disregard for the ongoing needs of Medicaid providers.

HHS is ignoring clear Congressional intent by distributing the fund through methodologies that discriminate against Medicaid providers, impairing their ability to meet the needs of their communities and threatening their financial stability during and after the crisis. Medicaid providers are at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it is hospitals fighting to meet the needs of communities in crisis, nursing facilities and home-based providers working to keep patients safe, maternal health providers and pediatricians stepping up to ensure patients can receive essential prenatal care and vaccinations, or behavioral health providers striving to serve those in need of mental health and substance use disorder treatment, Medicaid providers play a critical role in confronting this pandemic. It is also vitally important that these providers alongside other essential providers such as school-based providers, primary care providers, health centers, dental providers, and others continue to exist when the country reaches the other side of this crisis. It is for these reasons that when creating the PHSSEF, Congress specified that “eligible health care providers” included “Medicare or Medicaid enrolled suppliers and providers.” Unfortunately, with roughly $70 billion of the original $100 billion already spoken for, HHS has yet to determine how Medicaid-dependent providers, operating at some of the thinnest margins, will receive necessary financial support.

1 The PHSSEF was further enhanced by the Paycheck Protection Program Health Care Enhancement Act (P.L. 116-199).
In order for us to properly oversee your agency’s administration of the PHSSEF, please provide responses to the following questions no later than May 18, 2020.

1. What level of funding does HHS plan to allocate to Medicaid providers, how will HHS ensure that both Medicaid-only and Medicaid-dependent providers receive equitable access to the PHSSEF, and how will HHS determine the amount each Medicaid provider should receive?
2. Please provide a detailed explanation of the methodology for the “high impact” distribution, including whether any of the funds will be allocated according to a provider’s Medicare DSH status, Medicaid deemed DSH status, or a combination of both.
3. Please describe the steps you have taken to consult with state Medicaid directors, governors, stakeholders, and providers to determine which Medicaid providers have the greatest financial needs.
4. Please provide relevant data on the level of PHSSEF funding provided to Medicaid-dependent providers, including deemed Medicaid DSH hospitals. Please provide this data at the provider level.

* See supra note 4.

Letter to Secretary Azar regarding PSSEF distributions and Medicaid providers
Page 4 of 4

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
LETTERS

- Letter thanking Sen Wyden and Congressman Pallone
- March 30 Letter to Governor DeSantis requesting he order a shelter at home order
  - Which he did two days later
- April 13 letter requesting he NOT reopen schools this academic year, cosigned by FAFP, Florida Chapter of American College of Physicians, the Florida Osteopathic Association, and the Florida PTA.
  - He didn’t
LETTERS (CONTINUED)

• April 27 letter of support to Mayor of Miami Beach (and other south Florida mayors) re risks of opening up too quickly (Robin Furlong-Straus initiative)

• May 15 letter to Governor DeSantis giving him information about the major difficulties faced by pediatricians after no movement from AHCA (Doug Bell instrumental in being the main author of this one; I was just an editor!)

• Signed on to letter to Governor requesting that physicians be authorized to perform and interpret COVID-19 tests.
• Several editorials written by members
  • Need to get kids back to the office for check ups and immunizations (many of us)
  • Gun safety during pandemic (Barbara Markley)
  • Increased Child abuse risk during pandemic (Randy Alexander)
    • With parenting information

• Several interviews throughout pandemic
  • Toni Richards-Rowley, Judy Schaechter, Lisa Gwynn, Madeline Joseph, and more!
• Dr. Mark Hudak, Chairperson Univ. of Florida Jax
  • Opened a National Registry for Surveillance and Epidemiology of Perinatal COVID-19 cases
  • Has recruited 150 hospitals nationwide and expect another 50 to join
    • Represent 37 states and the District of Columbia
  • Following 495 mother-baby dyads as of this moment. More to come!
BACK TO OFFICE CAMPAIGN

• Tool-kit to get children back to their patient-centered home

• First done in LA Chapter. They allowed others to use, and we changed it to FL friendly

• Doug Bell helped share with health plans, children’s hospitals, DOH, the Governor’s Office

https://custom.cvent.com/ED603C5145F48C8BBC5477DB676A0EB/files/f61755559d114936adeadaa6e9f7c858.pdf
DOH

- Discussions with DOH and CMS about school opening in fall and what that will look like
  - Dr. Rob Karch and Dr. Scott Rivkees
- Lisa Gwynn has been instrumental and was appointed to the state-wide task force on school reopening protocols!
  - Even going to meetings while on vacation!
- DOH will likely help us get kids back into the office with a public messaging campaign
  - Including Geo-texting!
DISCUSSIONS WITH DOH

• Discussions with Dr. Rivkees and DOH about need for more pediatric testing (Thank you, Dr. Schaechter)

• Discussions with Dr. Rivkees about how we can get pediatricians to test more in their offices
  • We said MORE PPI and MORE TESTS!!!
  • Comments from you guys?
• AND THE STORY WILL CONTINUE……..
DON’T FORGET TO VOTE!

http://www.aap.org/vote