



American Society of Hematology: Practice Resources During COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Below is a summary of practice-related resources to help guide physicians and their practices during the COVID-19 public health crisis. This is certainly not an exhaustive list but rather it includes resources ASH thought would be most helpful to members at this time. If you are interested in more information, please reach out to Leslie Brady, ASH Policy and Practice Manager, at lbrady@hematology.org.

Opportunities for Financial Assistance

- Follow this [step-by-step guide](#) on how to submit a request for an **accelerated or advance Medicare payment**. A link to an AMA summary is [here](#) and FAQs are [here](#).
- The application process is now open for the [Paycheck Protection Program](#), which authorizes the provision of **forgivable loans** to small businesses (500 or fewer employees), including physician practices, to pay employees during the COVID-19 crisis.

Telehealth Services: What's new?

- Retroactive to March 6, Medicare will pay for office, hospital, and other visits furnished via telehealth across the country and including in patient's places of residence. Read the [fact](#) sheet from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for more information.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, Medicare will reimburse for **audio-only** telehealth for CPT codes 98966 – 98968 and 99441 – 99443. **Please note** that reimbursement for these CPT codes is low and ASH continues to advocate to allow physicians to reimburse for audio-only telehealth visits for office and outpatient evaluation and management services codes at a rate equivalent to in-person visits. Find more information on this, [here](#).
- Physicians can now supervise residents remotely by audio or video.

HIPAA Compliance

- During the COVID-19 crisis, physicians using telehealth will not receive penalties in the event of noncompliance with the regulatory requirements under HIPAA. Read more [here](#).
- Physicians can provide telehealth services using any non-public facing service that is available to communicate with patients. This includes, but is not limited to, Apple FaceTime, Facebook Messenger video chat, Google Hangouts video, or Skype.

Other

- Reporting period extended for physicians participating in the Quality Payment Program. Find more details [here](#).
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that April 1 was the effective date for the new COVID-19 ICD-10 diagnosis code. Physicians can use U07.1 to report a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- For information on commercial insurers, click [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for a link from ECRI to see a 50 minute virtual lab tour of safe respirator usage while supplies are short.