



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CDC

COVID-19 Update, 4/27

April 27, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 4/27, from ADH Website:

[View the ADH COVID-19 Dashboard here.](#)

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed cumulative cases in Arkansas - 3017
- Active cases - 1980
- Recovered patients - 987
- Deaths - 50
- Patients in the hospital - 109
- Patients on ventilators - 25
- Healthcare workers - 316

Elective Surgery Call with ADH, This Wednesday



Wednesday, April 29
12 - 1 p.m.
866-708-7832
Conference
Code: 9689226215

AMS is hosting a conference call for all interested physicians to hear and discuss the state's plan to resume elective surgeries.

Dr. James Bledsoe from the Arkansas Department of Health will be available to answer your questions.

Revised Specimen Collection Guidance

Nasopharyngeal specimen is the preferred choice for swab-based COVID-19 testing. When collection of a nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) is not possible, they have listed some alternative solutions. [Continuing reading the ADH guidance here.](#)

HHS General Allocation Fund Portal

From the American Medical Association:

Late this past week the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

announced that it will begin **distributing the second tranche of funds from the \$100 billion in funds to hospitals and other healthcare providers impacted by the coronavirus response**. The funding will be used to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19. HHS announced that \$50 billion of the Provider Relief Fund is allocated for general distribution to facilities and providers which billed Medicare in 2019, and are impacted by COVID-19, based on providers' 2018 net patient revenue. Of this \$50 billion, the initial \$30 billion was distributed between April 10 and April 17, and payments to providers from that \$30 billion were calculated based on providers' portion of Medicare fee-for-service revenue.

Starting on April 24, a portion of providers will automatically be sent an advance payment based off the revenue data they submit in CMS cost reports. Providers without adequate cost report data on file will need to submit their revenue information to the General Distribution Portal for additional general distribution funds. Initially some states and specialties thought that physicians must also submit cost reports, but the AMA verified with HHS that this is not the case. Physicians, however, do need to submit their revenue information so that it can be verified via the General Distribution Portal. The portal is now open. The customer service line confirmed anyone who has a Billing TIN (including a pediatric or obstetric practice) who lost revenue in March and/or can estimate lost revenue in April due to the COVID-19 crisis, should be filling out this portal.

The AMA has put together the attached guidance to help physicians pull together the information they need to submit to the portal. Also, attached is the additional information from HHS regarding the distribution. Below are key links from HHS with further explanations. If the AMA learns of additional information, we will disseminate it to the Federation.

[Read more on the AMA Guidance for HHS General Allocation Fund Portal.](#)

[Read the Fact Sheet on Provider Relief Fund General Distribution](#)

<https://covid19.linkhealth.com/docu/sign/#/step/1https://chameleoncloud.io/review/2977-5ea0af98f0fd0/prod >

Additional Funding Related to Treatment of the Uninsured

A portion of the \$100 billion Provider Relief Fund will be used to reimburse healthcare providers, at Medicare rates, for COVID-related treatment of the uninsured. Physicians are eligible for this funding. Every health care provider who has provided treatment for uninsured COVID-19 patients on or after February 4, 2020, can request claims reimbursement through the program and will be reimbursed at Medicare rates, subject to available funding. Steps will involve: enrolling as a provider participant, checking patient eligibility and benefits, submitting patient information, submitting claims, and receiving payment via direct deposit.

Providers can register for the program on April 27, 2020, and begin submitting claims in early May 2020. For more information, visit coviduninsuredclaim.hrsa.gov.

CMS Reevaluates Accelerated Payment Program and Suspends Advance Payment Program

On April 26, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it is reevaluating the amounts that will be paid under its Accelerated Payment Program and suspending its Advance Payment Program to Part B suppliers effective immediately. The agency made this announcement following the successful payment of over \$100 billion to health care providers and suppliers through these programs and in light of the \$175 billion recently appropriated for health care provider relief payments.

[Read the CMS statement here.](#)

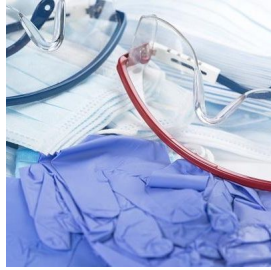
UnitedHealthcare Resources to Aid Claim Submissions and Processing

To help you manage the claim submission and reimbursement process with

UnitedHealthcare, as well as access the CARES ACT funding available to health care professionals, here's a summary of resources to address your most common questions and concerns. Use this list of quick links as an easy reference to save you time.

[Read the Summary Resources Fact Sheet Here.](#)

PPE Requests



If your clinic does not have PPE and is unable to obtain what you need from your normal supplier, [complete the online form.](#)

Telemedicine



View the latest information from insurance carriers, HIPAA, and other sources on telemedicine during the COVID-19 crisis at [ARKMED.org/telemedicine](https://www.arkmed.org/telemedicine)

Financial Help



We've compiled all of the financial resources that you may need for your clinic or practice during the COVID-19 crisis at <https://www.arkmed.org/financial-assistance-during-covid-19/>.

Join our COVID-19 Mailing List

Got Questions? Let Us Help.

The Arkansas Medical Society is here to serve our physician members and their medical teams. On our website, we have a place that you can send us questions or share what you're experiencing. Visit [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19) and click on the Got Questions box. We will respond to your question as soon as possible. Thank you for your hard work and together we will make it through this crisis.

For more AMS COVID-19 Resources, visit [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19).

Arkansas Medical Society [ARKMED.org](https://www.arkmed.org)

