Dear Members,

There are many of us in private practice struggling to keep the lights on in this time of Coronavirus. We need to be able to continue to care for our patients, and keep our staff employed. Here are some developments from CMS and the Small Business Administration (SBA) that can be of help.

CMS has expanded its advanced payment programs. Physicians are eligible for 3 months of prepayment of fees, based on a look back period. Fees will be credited to the prepayment after 6 months. The devil is always in the details, of course, but this is potentially great way to keep the lights on during this crisis. Here is an excerpt:

Amount of Payment: Qualified providers/suppliers will be asked to request a specific amount using an Accelerated or Advance Payment Request form provided on each MAC’s website. Most providers and suppliers will be able to request up to 100% of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. Inpatient acute care hospitals, children’s hospitals, and certain cancer hospitals are able to request up to 100% of the Medicare payment amount for a six-month period. Critical access hospitals (CAH) can request up to 125% of their payment amount for a six-month period. For more information, click here.

The Small Business Administration offers a Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) of 10,000 dollars to small businesses, which works essentially as a grant. To access more information, click here.

Practices that apply for the Payment Protection Plan (PPP) are not precluded from applying for EIDL, as long as the funds used for EIDL are not duplicative.

"Can I get an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and a Paycheck Protection Program Loan (PPP)?"

Yes, you can get both loans, but the key is to use the money to cover different expenses. Section 1102(a)(2)(G), the section outlining the PPP loans, explains the borrower requirements. It says the borrower has to certify that “the eligible recipient has not received amounts under this subsection for the same purpose and duplicative amounts.” For more information, click here.

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