

Inside this issue

- [COVID-19: Resources](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Partner Toolkit](#)
- [COVID-19 Emergency Declaration: Health Care Providers Fact Sheet](#)
- [Telemedicine Expanded](#)
- [SHM COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Thank You](#)

COVID-19: Resources

As frontline providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, SHM wants to offer you as much support and information as possible. As the situation is changing daily, we understand it is difficult to keep up-to-date with the most recent regulatory changes issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We have compiled some of the most recent updates and resources from CMS and will continue to provide you with updated policy and regulatory information as it is released.

[Top](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Partner Toolkit

CMS has prepared a toolkit that includes the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 waivers and benefit flexibilities. Please [click here](#) to access this toolkit.

Resources and information in the toolkit include information for the general public, information for Medicare beneficiaries, and information for clinicians. This resource is continually updated with links to the most up-to-date information from CMS and the CDC.

Resources of particular value for clinicians include:

- [Current Emergencies](#)
 - **This link will include the most comprehensive and up-to-date information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.**
 - Included in this section are up-to-date press releases, clinical and technical guidance, Medicaid and CHIP guidance, among other information.

- [CDC Covid-19 Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Access to Respirators and N95s](#)

[Top](#)

COVID-19 Emergency Declaration: Health Care Providers Fact Sheet

Included in this fact sheet are waivers and relief offered from CMS to ensure providers are able to rapidly treat and respond to the ongoing pandemic. Included below are summaries of the waivers most relevant to hospitalists. [Click here](#) to access the full document issued by CMS.

SNF Waiver

Patients who need to be transferred to a SNF facility as a result of a disaster or emergency will be granted Medicare skilled nursing facility (SNF) coverage, even if they were not admitted as inpatients for a three day hospital stay. Additionally, some beneficiaries who have previously exhausted their SNF benefits will be authorized renewed SNF coverage.

Critical Access Hospital Relief

CMS is waiving the requirements that Critical Access Hospitals limit the number of beds to 25, and that the length of stay be limited to 96 hours.

Flexibility in Housing Acute Care Patients

In order to meet the high demand for patient beds, CMS is issuing flexibility where acute care patients can be housed and treated within the hospital. So long as the bed is appropriate for acute patient care, patients may be housed in non-acute patient care beds. CMS is granting additional flexibility for housing patients that provide inpatient psychiatric care and inpatient rehabilitation care. CMS recognizes the potential for hospitals to become overwhelmed with capacity and wants to ensure providers have flexibility to provide care to patients throughout the hospital. To learn more about these waivers, please see the full CMS fact sheet, [linked here](#).

[Top](#)

Telemedicine Expanded

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to increase the safety of senior citizens, CMS has increased access to telemedicine services for Medicare beneficiaries. To learn more about the expansion of telemedicine, please [click here](#) to read this fact sheet. Information on telehealth services begins on page three.

[Top](#)

SHM COVID-19 Resources

SHM is actively monitoring the evolving outbreak of COVID-19 and is dedicated to supporting hospitalists. We will be continually updating our COVID-19 webpage, which you can access by [clicking here](#). This webpage will include resources and information developed by hospitalists and by other organizations.

[Top](#)

Thank You

As frontline providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, we at SHM want to take the opportunity to thank you for your tireless work and service. You are providing truly lifesaving care and it does not go unnoticed. SHM will do the best we can to support you and provide resources as needed.

Stay safe and thank you for your service.

[Top](#)

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