AMDA continues to monitor the COVID-19 Outbreak, and is now sending a daily digest of resources and information collected over the last day.

**Breaking News: CMS Addresses Society Concerns—Makes Sweeping Changes/Additions to Telehealth Services**

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society has asked the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to remove all barriers to providing visits in skilled nursing facilities via telehealth. On Monday, March 30, after many discussions with Society leaders, CMS did just that—essentially eliminating all barriers and adding services in other sites of care to the telehealth list. Importantly, all of these changes are backdated to March 1, 2020, so any billing that occurred prior to this release will be reimbursed.

The guidance released yesterday by CMS suspends all face-to-face regulatory visits and allows them to be done via telehealth.

Read more in this article by Alex Bardakh, AMDA’s director of public policy and advisory.

**Yesterday's Headlines:**

**New/Updated Guidance**

- [CMS to Provide Financial Relief for Medicare Providers](#)
- [CDC Health Advisory-Severe Illness Associated with Using Non-Pharmaceutical Chloroquine Phosphate to Prevent and Treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)](#)
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): Tips for Dementia Caregivers in Long-Term or Community-Based Settings](#)

**Journal Articles**
Clinical characteristics of 113 deceased patients with coronavirus disease 2019: retrospective study

News Reports

- AHCA / NCAL, AMDA blast 'short-sighted' plans to discharge people with COVID-19 from hospitals to long-term care facilities
- This too shall pass! PALTC is united
- New COVID-19 Forecasts: US Hospitals Could Be Overwhelmed in the Second Week of April by Demand for ICU Beds, and US Deaths Could Total 81,000 by July
- Dropping Therapy Utilization May Leave Seniors at Risk During COVID-19 Crisis
- Needing Room for Coronavirus Patients, Massachusetts Seeks to Clear Out Some Nursing Homes
- Coronavirus Patients Caught In Conflict Between Hospital And Nursing Homes
- FDA expedites review of diagnostic tests to combat COVID-19

Podcasts/Webinars

- April 1 Webinar: COVID-19: Preparing for the Surge with Dr. Lee Fleisher
- CDC COCA Call: Clinical Management of Critically Ill Adults with COVID-19, Thursday, April 2, 2-3 PM ET

AMDA’s COVID-19 Resources Page  Join the Conversation on AMDA’s Forum

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Acknowledge the service and sacrifice made by PALTC professionals who have gone above and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic by tagging them on Twitter and use #WeArePALTC

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