

No-Interest COVID-19 Financial Support Available

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) Independent Operator (IO) Council co-chairs Sarah Schumann and Mark Traylor strongly encourage their colleagues to take advantage of the streamlined Accelerated Payment [Program](#) offered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in response to the COVID-19 national public health emergency.

“We strongly recommend that independent SNF operators take full advantage of the CMS COVID-19 Accelerated Payment Program. It’s a simple 5-10-minute process to complete and submit the application for an interest-free loan to assure adequate cash-flow during these challenging times. Since it must be paid back later, we suggest setting this advance into a separate reserve account to use as an emergency fund.”

Highlights of the Program:

- **Eligibility:** Most IOs would be eligible if they have submitted Medicare claims during the past 6 months, are not in bankruptcy or under investigation, and do not have outstanding delinquent Medicare overpayments.
- **Amount Available:** IOs can request up to 100% of the Medicare Part A Payments they received from October-December 2019. CMS has already tabulated the amount available so IOs do not need to submit support financial documentation.
- **Enrollment Process:** IOs complete and submit a short enrollment form with your Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) and submit online, via email, or standard mail (see MAC Accelerated Payment Program contact information below).
- **Processing Time:** Eligible IOs will receive payment within 7 days of the submitted request.
- **Repayment:** IOs will not need to start repayment until 120 days after being issued the accelerated payment loan. The IO then has 90 days to repay at no interest. Terms are negotiated with the MAC. Any outstanding balance after 210 days of disbursement would be subject to interest.
- **Medicare Part A and Part B Claims:** In addition to the accelerated payment amount, IOs will continue to be paid for SNF PPS and Part B claims including outpatient therapy during this time.

MAC Accelerated Payment Program Contact Information:

CGS Administrators, LLC (CGS) - [Jurisdiction 15](#) (KY, OH, and home health and hospice claims for the following states: DE, DC, CO, IA, KS, MD, MO, MT, NE, ND, PA, SD, UT, VA, WV, and WY) DME B & C (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, NM, NC, OH, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WI, WV, PR, US VI) The toll-free Hotline Telephone Number: 1-855-769-9920 Hours of Operation: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm CT

Palmetto GBA - [Jurisdiction J & Jurisdiction M](#) (AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA (excludes Part B for the counties of Arlington and Fairfax in VA and the city of Alexandria in VA), WV, and home health and hospice claims for the following states: AL, AR, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MS, NM, NC, OH, OK, SC, TN, and TX) The toll-free Hotline Telephone Number: 1-833-820-6138 Hours of Operation: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm ET

AHCA Accelerated Payment Program FAQs:

https://www.ahcanca.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/FAQs-Medicare-Accelerated-Advance-Payments.pdf

CMS Accelerated Payment Program Fact Sheet:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>