



Medical Association Seeks Liability Protection during COVID Crisis

Physicians and all frontline healthcare workers need some clear heightened liability protections in order to be free to respond better to the healthcare emergency. The Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the Alabama Hospital Association, and the Alabama Nursing Home Association have drafted a proposed Executive Order for the Governor to consider that will provide broader liability protection to healthcare providers who are responding to the healthcare emergency. The proposed executive order is supplemental to all other executive orders and is based upon the declared state emergency and would provide clear protection for physicians and healthcare professionals by raising the standard of proof for a case brought against a physician. The issues addressed in the proposed Executive Order are as follows:

- 1. Physicians and their staff are included.** The proposal provides a broad definition of "health care provider" that includes physicians, their practices, and their office staff in the limited immunity. This will protect physicians and their office staff.
- 2. All healthcare providers, as broadly defined, are covered unless they act willfully, maliciously, fraudulently or in bad faith.** The proposal provides clear limited immunity and then provides the backstop of the current AMLA protection.
- 3. The proposal provides protection for civil and criminal violations.** During the term of the declared emergency, lines may be blurred, and as long as the healthcare worker is not acting willfully or in bad faith, he or she will be protected from both civil and criminal violations.
- 4. Any actions in furtherance of the emergency declaration are covered.** A physician is protected when he or she reschedules a procedure he or she in good faith believes is elective and is attempting to comply with previous executive orders.

Doctors Struggle to Pay Bills in Pandemic and Telemedicine isn't Saving Them



As the economic shutdown wallops small businesses in nearly every sector, healthcare providers haven't been immune. They face a double whammy: A drastic decrease in patient volume and a decrease in the amount of money insurance is willing to reimburse for the one thing that's been heralded as the future of healthcare: telemedicine.

[Read the Story on AL.com](#)

April 30 Application Deadline: 2019 MIPS Reporting Relief



CMS will provide [additional relief options for 2019 Merit-based Incentive Payment System \(MIPS\) reporting](#) due to COVID-19. Practices can submit an Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances application until April 30. An application submitted between April 3 and April 30, citing COVID-19, will override any previous data submission. CMS has updated the [QPP Participation Status Tool](#) so eligible clinicians can see if the policy has been automatically applied.

Who should submit an application?

- Individual clinicians who started, but are unable to complete, their data submission
- Groups that started, but are unable to complete, their data submission
- Virtual groups that are unable to start or complete their data submission

For more information, please see the Quality Payment Program COVID-19 response fact sheet.

Contact the Quality Payment Program at 1-866-288-8292, Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Eastern time or [by e-mail](#). Those who are
hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a TRS Communications Assistant.

Quality Payment Program COVID-19 Response Fact Sheet

Frontline Heroes

Discount Day April 25

Special thanks to all first responders,
law enforcement officers, physicians and nurses.



30% off

our family of brands
eligible regular-price
merchandise*

20% off

all other merchandise
eligible regular-price
items*

Offer good in store only—just show your badge or ID.
We appreciate everything you do to keep us safe and healthy.

Offer valid April 25, 2020, only in store with Balance® Rewards card to first responders, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, firefighters and police officers who present valid ID for proof of employment as a First Responder. 30% discount is available for the following Walgreens family of brands: A Little Something™, Big Roll™, Complete Home™, Dashing Fine Gifts®, Finest® Nutrition, Infinite®, Living Solutions®, Modern Expressions®, Nice®, Patriot Candles®, PetShops™, Play Right®, Smile & Save®, Walgreens, Walgreens seasonal brands, Well Beginnings®, West Loop®, and Wexford®. Proof of age may be required. Discount not valid on alcohol, dairy, tobacco, stamps, gift cards, newspapers, magazines, money orders/transfers, transportation passes, lottery tickets, charitable donations, pseudoephedrine or ephedrine products, clinic services, prescriptions, pharmacy items or services, sales tax, the Prescription Savings Club membership fee, and items or services submitted to insurance for reimbursement or where otherwise limited by law. Offer is not combinable with buy 1 get 1 free, buy 1 get 1 50% off, or buy 2 get 3rd FREE. Offer does not apply to bulk orders, back-ordered items and out-of-stock items.

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Updated PPE Guidance



The Alabama Department of Public Health has added updated Personal Protective Equipment guidance for healthcare providers. This updated information includes guidelines for masking, gowns and eye protection. You can download the PDFs below:

[SELECTED OPTIONS FOR REPROCESSING EYE PROTECTION](#)
[EXTENDED USE/REUSE/ALTERNATIVES FOR GOWNS GUIDANCE](#)
[PROPER MASK USE GUIDELINES](#)

[**Visit the ADPH Website**](#)

Ask CMS to Expand Telehealth Options

The increased use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic is critical to maintain as much access to care as possible for patients while appropriately practicing social distancing. At present, CMS's current telehealth policy for Medicare patients falls far short of achieving these goals.

During this unprecedented health emergency, the Medical Association is asking CMS to amend its telehealth policy beyond what they have already done to allow better use of telephone visits.

[**Do your part and submit comments to CMS directly through our Advocacy Portal!**](#)

PPE Supply Source

The Medical Association has been working with Jason Allman who is a practice administrator in Huntsville and has potentially found a source for much-needed PPE. In working with the Medical Association, Jason has offered to open his source up to physicians across the state who are in need.

Below is a letter from Jason to the medical community that he has asked us to share:

Dear Medical Community,

I am writing today to inform you there is some light at the end of the tunnel. Like many of your practices and facilities, we have been struggling to get basic necessities in order to treat our patients safely. Items like masks, hand sanitizer, gowns, gloves, etc. Today, I am excited to inform you we have found a source for various medical supplies. If you are in need of supplies I will be happy to add you to our order.

Simply [email me a list of supplies and quantities](#) you are looking for and I will reply promptly. Also, if you would like to speak with someone about your questions or concerns then add your contact name and direct number where you can be reached and we will call you back.

Please contact me by email only.

Stay safe and good luck.

Sincerely,

Jason Allman

Administrator

Primary Providers of Alabama

The Medical Association is trying to assist providers in finding and locating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). However, it has no indirect or direct business or financial relationship with Mr. Allman or any others in the production or supply chain. The Medical Association makes no representation about, and is not responsible for, the quality of the goods or PPE provided and encourages physicians interested in PPE to discuss these issues when ordering.



If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please [unsubscribe](#)

