



Stay Home, Alabama!

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to grow in Alabama and today, [a new health order](#) expanded coronavirus-related restrictions statewide. Rather than a state-wide 'Shelter in Place' order, Governor Kay Ivey closed all 'non-essential businesses.'

In light of this order, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, physicians and the entire medical community are urging all Alabamians to stay at home. Physical distancing and staying at home are the key to slowing the spread of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to give physicians, nurses and everyone on the front lines a fighting chance at having the equipment, time and resources necessary to take on this immense challenge.

Sustaining a Medical Practice During a Healthcare Crisis



The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives have passed recent legislation to assist business owners in business continuance during the economic crisis. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has expanded telehealth and reduced compliance burdens to allow flexibility in treating patients remotely and allow our focus to be on the healthcare crisis. At the request of the Medical Association, Tammie Lunceford, CMPE CPC, with Warren Averett drafted an article reviewing these important legislative updates.

[Read the Article Here](#)

COVID-19 Medicare Provider Enrollment Relief Frequently Asked Questions



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CMS released Frequently Asked Questions on Medicare Provider Enrollment Relief related to COVID-19 including the toll-free hotlines available to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs). CMS has established toll-free hotlines at each MAC to allow physicians and non-physician practitioners to initiate temporary Medicare billing privileges. These hotlines provide expedited enrollment and answer questions related to COVID-19 enrollment requirements.

[Read More](#)

Lessons from The Front Lines: COVID-19 Conference Call



On behalf of CMS Administrator Seema Verma, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD, and the White House Coronavirus Task Force, you are invited to the next call in our new series for physicians:

Lessons from The Front Lines: COVID-19

The call will take place on Saturday, March 28th from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST, and the topic of discussion is: COVID-19 Therapeutics. We invite you to join us to share your ideas, strategies, and insights with one another.

Please see dial-in details below. Conference lines are limited, so we highly encourage you to join via audio webcast, either on your computer or smartphone web browser.

Participant Dial In: 877-251-0301

Conference ID: 9409959

Audio Webcast



Ask CMS to Cover Telephone-Only Visits for Seniors

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 by not allowing telephone-only visits for Alabama seniors. [American Senior Alliance](#) joins the Medical Association in calling on CMS to fix the Alabama telehealth policy.

[Do your part and contact CMS, the President and Vice President, and Congress today.](#)



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