



## **Order PPE by May 14th**



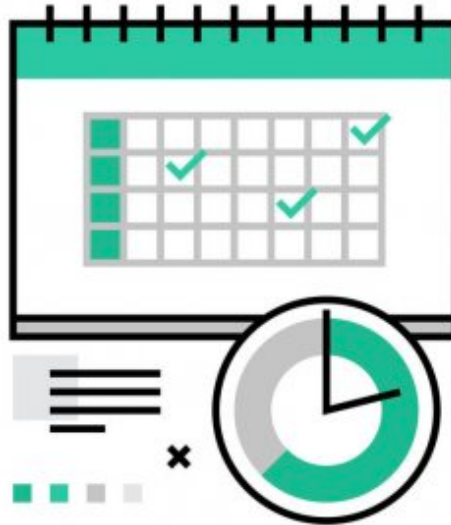
**We are still accepting orders.**

**The next order will be placed on Thursday, May 14th.**

Medical Association of the State of Alabama is offering a way for our members to order PPE that they might be having trouble obtaining including: disposable masks, N95 masks and disposable gowns. This service is provided through ActionPPE, who has also worked with medical associations in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and West Virginia.

**[Find More Information Here.](#)**

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## **HHS Extends Deadline for Attestation, Acceptance of Terms and Conditions for Provider Relief Fund Payments to 45 Days**

The Department of Health and Human Services has extended the deadline for healthcare providers to attest to receipt of payments from the Provider Relief Fund and accept the **Terms and Conditions**. Providers will now have 45 days, increased from 30 days, from the date they receive a payment to attest and accept the Terms and Conditions or return the funds. As an example, the initial 30-day deadline for providers who received payment on April 10, 2020, is extended to May 24 from May 9, 2020. With the extension, not returning the payment within 45 days of receipt of payment will be viewed as acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.

President Trump is providing support to healthcare providers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic through the bipartisan CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act which provide \$175 billion in relief funds to hospitals and other healthcare providers on the front lines of the coronavirus response. This funding will be used to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 and to ensure uninsured Americans can get treatment for COVID-19.

In allocating the funds, the Administration is working, among other things, to address both the economic harm across the entire healthcare system due to the stoppage of elective procedures, and addressing the economic impact on providers particularly impacted by COVID-19, and to do so as quickly and transparently as possible.

Visit **[hhs.gov/providerrelief](https://hhs.gov/providerrelief)** for more information on the allocations. Recipients of payments from any of these allocations must attest and accept the Terms and Conditions within 45 days.

- HHS is distributing \$50 billion across the healthcare system to providers and facilities that bill Medicare.
- Recognizing the financial strain from COVID-19 inpatient admissions, HHS is distributing \$12 billion to hospitals that reported at least 100 COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10 to HHS.
- HHS is distributing \$10 billion to rural hospitals and clinics.
- HHS is distributing \$400 million to tribal healthcare providers.
- HHS is using a portion of the Provider Relief Fund to reimburse healthcare providers, at Medicare rates, for COVID-related treatment of the uninsured.
- HHS is working to provide relief to additional healthcare providers including skilled nursing facilities, dentists, and other providers significantly impacted by COVID-19.

## **FDA Advises Caution on Use of Hydroxychloroquine Outside of Hospital and Clinical Trials**



Prescribers should exercise care when prescribing hydroxychloroquine for patients diagnosed with 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Currently, there are limited data showing the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine in treating COVID-19, and it is not approved for the treatment of

COVID-19 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). While an emergency use authorization (EUA) has been issued by the FDA for hydroxychloroquine, it is only for hospitalized patients who do not have access to a clinical trial and who can be closely monitored, and only covers hydroxychloroquine distributed from the Strategic National Stockpile. If prescribed under the EUA, healthcare providers must report all serious adverse effects and other data, such as outcomes, as specified in the EUA. To review the U.S. FDA Letter of Approval for Emergency Use Authorization, [click here](#).

Hydroxychloroquine has significant and serious side effects, such as QT prolongation and hypoglycemia. Cases of life-threatening cardiomyopathy have been reported with its use, as have ventricular arrhythmias, torsades de pointes, irreversible retinal damage and critical issues with blood glucose. Please consider these complications before prescribing the drug to patients with heart rhythm conditions, kidney disease, liver disease, diabetes, certain blood problems, retinal concerns, or those who drink large amounts of alcohol. Hydroxychloroquine interacts with digoxin and potentiates the QT prolongation of azithromycin. Dosing recommendations for COVID-19 patients are higher than those for malaria. The drug is rapidly and completely absorbed after ingestion, and signs of complications can exhibit within 30 minutes. While it is common to prescribe some medications for unapproved conditions, it is important that there is scientific data showing the medication is safe and effective before prescribing off-label.

For more on the FDA Safety Communication on use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for COVID-19, [click here](#).

There are clinical trials of a number of other drugs that show some promise that can be found on the [FDA website](#).

There are numerous drugs being studied, but the one with most immediate promise appears to be remdesivir. On May 1, 2020, FDA issued an EUA to allow remdesivir to be distributed and used by licensed health care providers to treat adults and children hospitalized with severe COVID-19. Severe COVID-19 is defined as patients with an oxygen saturation (SpO2)  $\leq$  94% on room air or requiring supplemental oxygen or requiring mechanical ventilation or requiring extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a heart-lung bypass machine. The EUA requires that fact sheets that provide important information about using remdesivir in treating COVID-19 be made available to health care providers and patients.

[See all ADPH Alerts Here](#)

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## Telehealth Video: Medicare Coverage and Payment of Virtual Services

CMS updated a [video](#) that answers common questions about the expanded Medicare telehealth services benefit during the COVID-19 public health emergency. New information includes how CMS adds services to the list of telehealth services, additional practitioners that can provide telehealth

services, and the distant site services that Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) can provide. Further, the video includes information about audio-only telehealth services, telehealth services that hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies can provide, along with how to correctly bill for telehealth services.

## COVID-19 QUESTIONS? GET ANSWERS & EARN CME.

As providers, physicians and members of the health care team want to do whatever they can to ensure the health and well-being of their patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the practice of medicine is facing challenges in delivering the best care amid government mandates and ever-changing public perceptions of the situation. At the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, we want to help by offering online COVID-19 CME courses (free for members).



Courses include:

- **PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN THE COVID-19 ERA**
- **PPE FOR PHYSICIANS: NEW, USED AND REFRESHED**
- **AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE DOCTOR'S SYMPTOMS OF COVID AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC**

#### Credits

The Medical Foundation of Alabama designates this enduring material for a maximum of .25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama through the joint providership of the Medical Foundation of Alabama and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. The Medical Foundation of Alabama is accredited by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**[HTTPS://WWW.ALAMEDICAL.ORG/COVID19](https://www.alamedical.org/covid19)**



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