

The Least You Need to Know:

In order to increase cash flow to hospices and other providers during the COVID-19 emergency, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is authorized to provide accelerated or advance payments during the period of the emergency to Medicare hospices. Each hospice must submit a request to the appropriate Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) and be eligible for the payment.

What is an accelerated payment?

This is like a paycheck advance for hospices, with payments intended to provide necessary funds when there is a disruption in business that requires shoring up cash flow.

Is my hospice eligible?

To qualify for advance payments the hospice must:

1. Have billed Medicare for claims within 180 days immediately prior to the date of signature on the request form
2. Not be in bankruptcy
3. Not be under active medical review or program integrity investigation, and
4. Not have any outstanding delinquent Medicare overpayments

How much can I request?

Up to 100% of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period

Do I have to pay it back?

Yes. During the first 120 days following payment hospices will receive full payment for their claims in addition to the advance. After 120 days, the payment for new claims submitted will be automatically applied to the balance of the advance. For hospices that receive Period Interim Payment (PIP), the accelerated payment reconciliation process will happen at the final cost report process (180 days after the fiscal year closes).

Great!

How do I make a request?

STEP 1. Submit an Accelerated/Advance Payment Request form, available on your MAC's website.

Forms can be submitted by mail, fax or email. There are now COVID-19 hotlines at each MAC that can assist you with accelerated payment requests. To locate your designated MAC, refer to the yellow box on page 2.

STEP 2. Complete the entire form, including the following:

- Hospice provider identification information
- Legal Business Name/ Legal Name
- Correspondence Address
- National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- **Other information as required by the MAC**

STEP 3. Check Box 2: *Delay in provider/supplier billing process of an isolated temporary nature beyond the provider's/supplier's normal billing cycle and not attributable to other third-party payers or private patients. State that the request is for an accelerated payment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

The form must be signed by an authorized representative of the hospice

When should we expect payment? If the request is approved, each MAC will work to issue payment within 7 calendar days from the request.



Actions of a Prudent Hospice™

ONE. Consult with your hospice's financial leadership to evaluate the degree to which your hospice is likely to experience cash flow problems as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

TWO. Determine the amount you need to request, not to exceed 100%.

THREE. Complete and submit electronically (it's faster than postal mail) the appropriate form for your MAC, closely following your specific MAC's instructions for submission.

FOUR. Monitor expenses and billing closely to mitigate cash flow impairment, and anticipate future recoupment.

More Information

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

NHPCO Regulatory Alert: https://www.hospicefundamentals.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Reg-Alert_Accelerated-Advance-Payments_COVID-19_033020.pdf

CHECK IT OUT



MAC Websites and Hotlines:

CGS Administrators, LLC (CGS)

www.cgsmedicare.com

Hotline Telephone Number: 1-855-769-9920

Hours of Operation: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm CT

Find the form and submission e mail/fax info here: <https://acevedoconsulting.egnyte.com/dl/Msp4a9NF9T>

National Government Services (NGS)

www.ngsmedicare.com

Hotline Telephone Number: 1-888-802-3898

Hours of Operation: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm CT

Find the form and submission e mail/fax info here: <https://www.hospicefundamentals.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NGS-AA-form-2.pdf>

Palmetto GBA

www.palmettogba.com

Hotline Telephone Number: 1-833-820-6138

Hours of Operation: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm ET

Find the form and submission e mail/fax info here: <https://www.hospicefundamentals.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Palmetto-AA-form-2.pdf>

Click here for a map of MAC jurisdictions for Hospice: <https://www.hospicefundamentals.com>

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