

March 20, 2020

Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 445-G
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Verma:

I am writing on behalf of the National Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals, a coalition of private safety-net hospitals, to convey our strong support for the American Hospital Association's letter to you of earlier today urging the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide periodic interim payments (PIPs) or accelerated payments immediately to hospitals to support the challenge we face of caring for hundreds of thousands or even millions of Americans suffering from COVID-19.

Hospitals need consistent, reliable, adequate cash flow to support the challenge ahead. Our private safety-net hospitals, and others like us, are already incurring significant costs preparing for the influx of patients to come. Most of these hospitals have stopped performing elective surgeries and have lost an important source of revenue. Now, they are concerned about their ability to pay their bills until the anticipated surge of patients and also concerned about the potential for delays in payments once those patients arrive. This is revenue they need to pay their bills: to keep the lights on, the water running, the staff paid, and the patient rooms supplied and equipped. Hospitals need this reliable, consistent flow of money – and they need it sooner rather than later.

NASH is pleased with many of the steps CMS has taken in the past week to enable us to do our jobs more effectively in this time of crisis. Now, we urge you to take another important step and provide hospitals with PIPs to ensure our ability to meet the challenge ahead of us all.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler
Executive Director

