

HHS Issues Relief Fund Eligibility Clarification

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued clarification regarding the terms and conditions for accepting funds distributed to physicians, ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) and other providers from the \$100 billion COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Confusion arose from the Department's "Terms and Conditions" that seemed to suggest that only providers diagnosing, testing, or caring for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19 were eligible for funding.

In its webpage update, HHS has clarified that eligibility of funds is not specific to a provider of facility treating COVID-19 and that HHS broadly views every patient as a possible case of COVID-19.

The Terms and Conditions has been changed to no longer say providers attest to "currently" taking care of patients, just that they did so after January 30, 2020.

These changes should alleviate any hesitancy by ASGE members to accept the "Terms and Conditions" associated with receipt of relief funds. The ASGE appreciates quick action from the American Medical Association which obtained clarification on April 10 following outreach by ASGE and other medical societies with concerns.