Dear Members,

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the first disbursement from the $100 billion CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. HHS is distributing $30 billion immediately with payments arriving via direct deposit starting today, April 10, 2020. These are payments, not loans, to healthcare providers and will not need to be repaid.

All facilities and providers that received Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursements in 2019 are eligible for this initial rapid distribution. ASNC signed a letter sent to HHS on April 7 asking for immediate financial assistance for physicians across the country treating patients with the novel coronavirus and providing ongoing care for patients with chronic conditions and urgent needs, as well as those incurring significant financial losses due to postponing nonessential procedures and visits.

Providers will be distributed a portion of the initial $30 billion based on their share of total Medicare FFS reimbursements in 2019. All relief payments will be made to the billing organization according to its Taxpayer Identification Number.

HHS has partnered with UnitedHealth Group (UHG) to provide rapid payment to providers eligible for this initial distribution. Providers will be paid via Automated Clearing House account information on file with UHG or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The automatic payments will come to providers via Optum Bank with "HHSPAYMENT" as the payment description. Providers who normally receive a paper check for reimbursement from CMS will receive a paper check in the mail for this payment within the next few weeks.

Visit here for more information about disbursement from the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund.

Within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation confirming receipt of the funds and agreeing to the terms and conditions of payment. The portal for signing the attestation will be open the week of April 13, 2020, and will be linked here.

It is important to note this distribution of funds is not related to the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program.

The Provider Relief Fund was included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law on March 27, 2020.

The ASNC team is continuing to work for you. Be safe. Be well.

Best regards,
Your ASNC Team