

FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR PHYSICIANS The Information You Need Now in a Handy One-Pager

RELIEF AND FLEXIBILITY FOR PHYSICIANS DURING COVID-19

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY ACTIONS AND RESOURCES

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

- \$100 billion relief fund to ensure health care providers continue to receive the support they need for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue.
- The Department of Health and Human Services announced on April 10, 2020 immediate disbursement of the first \$30 billion of the \$100 billion that Congress allocated in the CARES Act.
- The \$30 Billion in funding is being directed to hospitals and physicians practices in direct proportion to their 2019 share of Medicare fee-for-service spending.
- All facilities and health professionals that billed Medicare FFS in 2019 are eligible for the funds. The funds are grants, not loans, and do NOT have to be repaid. The funds will go directly to each organization's tax identification number (TIN) and not to each individual physician. The automatic payments will come to the organizations via Optum Bank with "HHSPAYMENT" as the payment description. See the links below for additional detail.
- Be sure to review the terms and conditions link for receipt of

ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN

- Available to eligible entities, including physician practices, with not more than 500 employees. Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2020.
- An advance of \$10,000 is available for providing paid sick leave to employees, maintaining payroll, meeting increased costs to obtain materials, making rent or mortgage payments, and repaying obligations that cannot be met due to revenue losses.
- The \$10,000 advance payment would not need to be repaid. If an entity also gets a Payroll Protection Program loan, the advance would be subtracted from the amount forgiven. Apply through the Small Business Administration

MEDICARE ACCELERATED AND ADVANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM

- Physicians can request an advance payment up to 100% of their Medicare payment amount for a three-month period.

As physicians face the unprecedented stresses associated with fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, ASNC is advocating for the support and relief you need. We're also acting quickly to ensure you're aware of the legislative, regulatory and other options available to you or your practice. In addition to the alerts we're sending, we're developing tools for you. For example, this brand-new **comprehensive summary sheet** compiles the information you need to know about the financial relief programs that have just become available. This downloadable one-pager provides the answers to these important questions:

- What **programs** are available?
- Who is **eligible**?
- What are the participation **terms**?
- How to **apply**?

We encourage you to download this helpful tool from ASNC's [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) and share it with your colleagues.

[DOWNLOAD SUMMARY SHEET](#)



Thank You

ASNC thanks Bracco for supporting the development of this communication tool.

LIFE FROM INSIDE

ASNC Supplies Template Appeal Letter for Denials During COVID-19

Members have reported insurer denials for **PET and exercise testing** that contradict recommendations in the ASNC/SNMMI information statement "**Guidance and Best Practices for Nuclear Cardiology Laboratories during the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic.**" To support members, ASNC has developed a template letter that can be submitted to insurers to appeal decisions denying coverage for procedures that are in line with the statement's recommendations aimed at keeping patients and personnel safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members should fill out the template with specifics on the relevant insurer and information regarding the procedure and then submit it along with the [ASNC/SNMMI statement](#).

[DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE](#)

P.S. – The [ASNC/SNMMI information statement](#) – which was released ahead of publication on April 2 and already has accrued nearly 6,000 views – provides recommendations for protocol selection and examples of nuclear cardiology studies and selection presented in a three-category triage scale.

COVID-19 NEWS & RESOURCES

HHS Announces First Distribution of Relief Funds to Providers. As ASNC shared in an advocacy alert last week, HHS began distributing \$30 billion in payments, not loans, to healthcare providers. Within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation confirming receipt and agreeing to the terms and conditions of payment. [Read ASNC's alert.](#)

RADIOLOGY BUSINESS **ASNC in the News.** [Radiology Business Journal](#) reported on the letter that ASNC, the AMA, and others signed asking for immediate financial assistance for physicians treating patients with 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. [Read the letter.](#)

NRC Outlines Regulatory Relief Methods. In a letter issued last week, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission described regulatory relief options that may be available for licensees due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The letter instructs licensees (including byproduct material, uranium recovery, decommissioning [both materials and reactors], fuel facilities, and spent fuel storage facilities) to contact the NRC via electronic correspondence as soon as they anticipate a compliance problem. [Read the NRC's letter.](#)

No Specific Shortages Anticipated for Mo-99. Nuclear Medicine Europe's Security of Supply Working Group [reported on April 6](#) that NTP reactor operations have been uninterrupted and flights have been found to deliver product to international markets. Despite challenges with last-minute delays and cancellations, radioisotope shipments are being transported as cargo on passenger flights. ASNC will continue to monitor and report any anticipated supply changes.

[COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER](#)

ASNC UPDATES

ASNC Answers COVID-19 Questions. Faculty from ASNC's recent [COVID-19 Preparedness webinar](#) have written responses to attendees' questions. Topics include: evaluating the risk benefits of testing, managing and screening non-COVID-19 patients, testing procedures, diagnosing and managing patients with COVID-19, personal protective equipment, cleaning procedures, studies and recommendations, logistics and other concerns. [Access the Q&A.](#)

IAEA to Host Virtual Town Hall This Thursday. "COVID-19 Pandemic: Guidance for Nuclear Medicine Departments" will convene at 8:00 AM (U.S. EDT) on April 16. **ASNC President Sharmila Dorbala, MD, MPH, FASNC,** will be among expert panelists joining from several countries. [Join the event here.](#)

ASNC Extends Board Nominations Deadline to April 30. The Nominating Committee invites you to recommend members for the 2021 Board of Directors. The committee will submit a slate of nominations for the current Board's approval, and then the slate will be voted on by the membership. [View the job description and nomination guidelines.](#)



Cleveland Clinic FIT Blogs on ASNC Virtual Nuclear Cardiology Elective

Nikolaos Spiliadis, MD, shares thoughts on how to get the most value out of each day's session and how such virtual programming could become part of the new normal once the COVID-19 crisis is resolved. [Read his blog.](#)

[ASNC's LATEST NEWS](#)

LIVE TEACHING FOR TRAINEES

ASNC Virtual Nuclear Cardiology Elective Continues This Week

ASNC's virtual classroom was at capacity throughout the last week as nuclear cardiologists from top U.S. programs delivered 30-minute didactic lectures followed by 90 minutes of hands-on interpretation of SPECT/PET/novel SPECT cases. **ASNC Virtual Nuclear Cardiology Elective will continue today through Friday, April 17, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM (U.S. EDT).** [View the schedule.](#)

Feedback on the program from training directors and attendees has been enthusiastically positive. ASNC reached out to a few of the hundreds of fellows who have attended and asked for tips on getting the most out of the virtual training sessions. In addition to following basic Zoom video conferencing etiquette, fellows recommended the following:

1. **Prepare before each session.** Before you log on, says **Sonal Pruthi, MD,** of Hartford Hospital, "Give the chapter on the topic we are going to discuss a quick read." Even a small effort will remind you of the specific questions that may arise when you're reading the cases. Such preparation is especially important, she adds, if you're preparing for the Board exams.
2. **Actively participate during the sessions.** That means asking questions during the chat, says **Nikolaos Spiliadis, MD,** of the Cleveland Clinic. "The hosts have been extremely helpful in answering all of our questions and explaining the special features of each case," he notes.
3. **Read more after each session.** That's key, says Dr. Spiliadis. Taking the time to study the topics that were discussed "makes it easier for me to 'consolidate' the knowledge and fill in possible gaps," he explains.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Reading Lists Coming Soon

In addition to expanding the number of seats available in each session (we now can accommodate 500 per session!), ASNC is working with the faculty to develop reading lists for each session. Watch for them.

ASNC IS WORKING FOR YOU.

**If you aren't a member yet or you haven't renewed your membership,
PLEASE ACT NOW.**

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Take care. Stay well.

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