Dear Members,

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced how it will disseminate the remainder of the $100 billion Provider Relief Fund established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted on March 27.

HHS has apportioned $50 billion for "general allocation" to Medicare facilities and providers impacted by COVID-19. Distribution will be based on a provider's previous annual net patient revenue.

What Does This Mean?
This means that a provider's payment will be calculated based on the revenue data that he or she submits to HHS. From that amount, HHS will subtract the amount the provider already received from the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund between April 10 and April 17 based on 2019 Medicare fee-for-service reimbursements.

In the announcement, HHS states the entire $50 billion general distribution will be "allocated proportional to providers' share of 2018 net patient revenue." Information on the General Distribution Portal instructs providers to "upload their most recent IRS tax filings."

HHS says additional payments will go out weekly, on a rolling basis, as revenue information is received by HHS and is validated.

The Portal Is Open
HHS opened the portal late Friday, April 24, for providers to submit revenue information. HHS also has created a user's guide and a frequently asked questions document to help providers through the process.

Only providers with cost reports on file with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (e.g., hospitals) will automatically receive a second distribution of funds. All other providers must use the CARES Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal. According to the portal instructions, only providers who already received payments through the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund can use this portal to apply for additional relief funds.

These funds are not an advance payment and do not need to be repaid.

Best regards,
Your ASNC Team

P.S.-- Here are some additional resources:

Congress Passes Another Relief Bill
CMS Suspending Accelerated and Advance Payment Programs