

4/3/2020

Good Morning REDC Members,

We hope you are all hanging in there and staying healthy! Below you will find our weekly policy update.

There will be a COVID-19 4<sup>th</sup> Stimulus package, which we will see likely on the House and Senate floor in May/June. One thing I'm pleased to inform you all, as it is top of mind for all REDC Members, is that REDC will also be working on a federal legislative fix for telehealth to be required for ERISA plans at all levels of care (i.e. IOP/PHP) during the crisis and working on the issue of state licensure issues across state lines. **Please see below for things you can do on your state level and information we can use for you to push this on a federal level:**

## Telehealth

1. **If you are having issues with your self-funded/ERISA plans covering telehealth for outpatient services, please email Allison with the following information. We will not share your centers name.**
  - a. Center Name
  - b. City, State
  - c. Level of care having issues covering
  - d. How many patients are having the issue (if this is easy to provide)
  - e. Payers where you're having these issues (i.e. Anthem, Blue Cross, etc)
  
2. How your Center can advocate with your Governor and State Insurance Commissioner:
  - a. As you may remember from last week, we sent a 50+ national organization letter to every Governor and State Insurance Commissioner on this issue. You as an individual center can also do this directly.
    - i. The responses we have received from select states regarding our letter is attached in the PDF document. **The document has resources of state bulletins/actions taken to address telehealth coverage from our letter conversation labeled "State Responses Telehealth Actions" that have responded back to our letters. This includes: CA, CO, DE, KY, ME, MA, OH, SC, TX, and VT.** The document also provides additional resources to file complaints or look for additional information.

- b. **The attached excel sheet provides a State Directory of the Governors, Chiefs of Staff and the Insurance Commissioners in the event members want to reach out to their respective state leaders and agencies.**

- i. Any yellow highlights notate contact information we could not locate/have an email address; however, every state and territory have at least one point of contact with the exception of the Northern Mariana Islands.

3. Telehealth Updates This Week:

- a. Earlier this week, CMS announced they will be covering 80 additional services via telehealth under Medicare. You can find a listing of these additional services here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>

- i. One exception is that psychotherapy codes for telehealth services provided via audio only are **not covered**. The REDC has joined a letter with 90 other organizations that will be sent to the CMS Administrator urging this coverage immediately.

- b. Additionally, CMS will temporarily waive Medicare and Medicaid's requirements that physicians and non-physician practitioners be licensed in the state where they are providing services. State requirements will still apply.
  - c. The REDC has also joined a letter this week to House and Senate leadership urging the inclusion of federal premium subsidies to help individuals offset the cost to maintain COBRA coverage as Congress works to develop their 4<sup>th</sup> stimulus package.

## **SERVE Act:**

1. NDAA and Moving the SERVE Act

- a. We've been receiving word that more unexpected HASC Members including Rep. Trahan (D-MA) who sits on the subcommittee of jurisdiction, have included SERVE Act in their NDAA request
  - b. House sent a notice that they will be marking up the NDAA on May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - c. Senate is also continuing as planned, and are doing hearings via "paper hearing" and looking into virtual options

2. SERVE Act Briefing

- a. Yesterday we had a successful virtual briefing on the SERVE Act. Below provides the key highlights:

i. RSVPS: 98 Registered Attending

ii. Attendance: 75 Attendees (not including phone calls which we can't track), with a number of House and Senate staff from the Armed Services Committee

iii. Additionally we had a number of unexpected attendees including Members from the Armed Services including Kristin Galloway (Psychologist with the U.S. Air Force), Nikki Whitten (Ombudsman with the U.S. Navy), Dena Boyd (Operations Specialist with the U.S. Navy) and Aaron Ballantyne (Physician with the U.S. Air Force).

b. ICYMI, you can watch the briefing [here](#) and the corresponding PPT slides can be found here.

#### **Other Information:**

- The Small Business Administration has put together information on small business loans (under 500 employees and some exceptions for some over 500 employees) on how to apply for a loan/grant for payroll protection: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>
- American Academy of Pediatrics provided a quick summary of the COVID-19 3<sup>rd</sup> Package: <https://downloads.aap.org/DOFA/Coronavirus%203.0%20Package%20Summary.pdf>

Best,

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