

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C3-01-24
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

April 8, 2020

Laxmaiah Manchikanti, MD
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians
The Voice of Interventional Pain Management
81 Lakeview Drive
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

Dear Dr. Manchikanti:

Thank you for your email to Administrator Verma regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid's (CMS) recent expansion of its accelerated and advance payment program. You asked that CMS consider certain modifications to both the percentages used to calculate advance payments for Medicare Part B suppliers and the timeframes for repayment. Your email was referred to me for a response, and I appreciate hearing from you on this very important issue. Specifically, you recommended the following.

1) Approve 125% of the historical Medicare payment for a 3-month period or 100% for a 6-month period and extend repayment to begin 180 days after the accelerated/advance payment has been issued.

Response: At this time, CMS expects to maintain the payment percentages and repayment timeframes listed in CMS' Fact Sheet on the Expansion of the Accelerated and Advance Payments Program found here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>. These percentages are based on the recently passed Coronavirus Aid, relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as well as percentages referenced in CMS' regulatory updates found in its recently published Interim Final Rule with Comment (CMS-1744-IFC). These regulatory changes address percentages for Part B suppliers. We appreciate that providers and suppliers may need assistance beyond what these percentages and repayment timeframes will offer and CMS will continue to look for ways to provide any further assistance.

2) At the end of the 180-day period, recoupment commences at 50% of the new claims to repay the accelerated/advance payments, which will extend payment period to 180 days instead of 90 days.

Response: CMS is working with our general counsel to determine if this recommendation is within our existing authorities and will consider it if we have the authority.

3) After 18 months, CMS' Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) should perform manual checks to determine if there is are remaining balances.

Response: CMS does not have the authority to change this requirement. These repayment timeframes under this program align with the guidelines provided in the CARES Act.

Again, thank you for offering insight and recommendations. CMS will be sure to inform stakeholders of any updates or changes to the Accelerated and Advance Payment Program.

Sincerely,

Megan Worstell
Director
Office of Financial Management