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## **Medicare DRG INCREASES FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT SERVICES UNDER Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have [released guidance](#) for implementing several provisions included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Allwell from Home State Health will be following this guidance as we adjudicate Medicare claims for applicable COVID-19 inpatient treatment services.

The CARES Act provides for a 20% increase to the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) rate for COVID-19 patients for the duration of the public health emergency. The increase will be applied to claims that include the applicable COVID-19 ICD-10-CM diagnosis code and meet the date of service requirements, as follows:

- Discharges occurring on or after January 27 and on or before March 31:
  - **B97.29** – Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
  - CDC coding guidance [for cases discharging on March 31 and prior](#)
- Discharges occurring on or after April 1:
  - **U07.1** – COVID-19
  - CDC coding guidance [for cases discharging on April 1 and after](#)

For discharges with the diagnosis codes above, Allwell from Home State Health will follow the [Medicare billing guidance published by CMS](#). Inpatient claims for these COVID-19 discharges that have already been received will be automatically reprocessed to reflect the payment increase.

*This guidance is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and may be retired at a future date.*

### **Sources:**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)

- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/se20015.pdf>
- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mm11764.pdf>

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/COVID-19-guidelines-final.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/ICD-10-CM-Official-Coding-Guidance-Interim-Advice-coronavirus-feb-20-2020.pdf>