

# PROVIDER

# ALERT

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## **CMS Regulatory Changes to Help U.S. Health Care System Address COVID-19 Patient Surge**

On March 30, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an array of temporary regulatory waivers and new rules to equip the American health care system with maximum flexibility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These temporary changes will apply immediately across the entire U.S. health care system for the duration of the emergency declaration. This allows hospitals and health systems to deliver services at other locations to make room for COVID-19 patients needing acute care in their main facility. The changes will augment the work of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well as state and local public health authorities, by empowering local hospitals and health care systems to rapidly expand treatment capacity that allows them to separate patients infected with COVID-19 from those who are not affected.

Please see the following link for additional information on the CMS waivers and flexibilities and note the website is being routinely updated: <https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/emergency-preparedness-response-operations/current-emergencies/coronavirus-waivers>.

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