



The US Oncology Network Submits Letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar Requesting Relief for Community Oncology Providers

*As policymakers respond to the ongoing pandemic,
The US Oncology Network releases dedicated COVID-19 website*

Last week, The US Oncology Network submitted a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Alex Azar with recommendations for ways to enhance patient safety and assist community cancer practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the letter were four central themes that require action:

- **Provider Stabilization:** provide targeted assistance to health care providers to offset emergency expenses and lost revenue due to this crisis, including a full one-year, temporary suspension of Medicare sequestration, retroactively effective on January 1, 2020.
- **Practice Transformation:** temporarily extend the Oncology Care Model (OCM) and suspend two-sided risk, and delay implementation of the Radiation Oncology Model.
- **Utilization Management:** provide temporary, targeted utilization management relief for cancer treatment to enable practices to redeploy staff to more pressing needs.
- **Seamless Patient Care:** explore coverage options to ensure seamless care for patients dealing with job loss during this crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic is significantly disrupting patient care and practice operations. For the latest on state and federal response efforts, including guidance from various federal agencies and what legislation passed by Congress means for your practice, visit: www.legislink.com/coronavirus.

In addition to temporarily suspending Medicare sequestration and creating flexibilities to expand the use of reimbursable telehealth services, the federal government has taken broad action to support community providers. Of particular interest:

- [Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- [Accelerated and Advance Payment Program](#)
- [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#)
- Additional Tax Incentives (payroll tax deferral, business interest deduction, employee retention tax credit, etc.)

For more information on these federal programs and others providing financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic, [CLICK HERE](#). We encourage you to consult your finance and human resource teams as you consider how these programs apply to you.