



The US Oncology Network Petitions Congress to Address Ongoing Concerns of Community Oncology Providers

As policymakers consider additional measures to respond to COVID-19, The Network urges Congress to extend sequestration relief, protect access to safe and timely care, and make certain telehealth changes permanent

On June 11, The US Oncology Network submitted a letter to congressional leaders with recommendations for ways to enhance patient care and safety and assist community cancer practices affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The letter included five key proposals:

- **Provider Stabilization:** extend Medicare sequestration relief retroactively to January 1, 2020, or extend it into 2021, and consider changes to the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments Program to provide additional relief to struggling healthcare providers.
- **Seamless Patient Care:** address coverage gaps to prevent disruption for patients who are mid-treatment and experiencing job loss during this crisis.
- **Value-Based Care:** delay implementation of the Radiation Oncology Model to allow practices to manage this public health crisis without the burden of transitioning to a new payment system.
- **Access to Safe and Timely Care:** provide temporary, targeted utilization management relief for cancer treatment to enable practices to better prioritize staff resources and discontinue harmful home infusion policies for chemotherapy.
- **Telehealth:** permanently waive Medicare's limitations relating to geography and patient setting to enable Medicare beneficiaries with serious health conditions to receive telehealth at home after the public health emergency ends.

To read The Network's letter to Congress, [CLICK HERE](#).

To stay up to date on other policy changes during COVID-19, visit www.legislink.com/coronavirus.