



## PPS State of Affairs

With information changing by the day, it is difficult to keep abreast of the many topics impacting the private practitioner within the COVID-19 arena. Albeit not all-inclusive, this document is meant to serve as a living guide displaying the most current information on evolving topics, and reflects the input of several key experts. While not meant to serve as legal or financial advice, the intent of this publication is to provide guidance for navigating the murky waters that lie ahead and quell anxieties about the volume of information that remains unknown. When updates are made to this document, PPS will highlight the newest information in red to allow for efficient use.

**Date of release: October 19, 2021**

The **Public Health Emergency (PHE) has been extended again and will be in place through mid-January 2022**. For the duration of the PHE, PTs and PTAs in private practice will continue to have access to the temporary PHE-related Medicare regulatory waivers and new rules that afford providers the flexibility to respond to COVID-19 pandemic, including telehealth coverage. **PTs and PTAs are able to provide care to Medicare beneficiaries via telehealth only for the duration of the PHE. Whereas, PTs will be able to use virtual audio/visual technologies to achieve direct supervision until the end of the calendar year in which the PHE ends—through at least the end of 2022.**

Applications are now open for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship Exception and Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception for the 2021 Performance Year. Those interested must submit their applications to CMS by **December 31, 2021**.

The COVID relief bill, (*Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020*), enacted December 27, 2020, made a number of changes to existing relief programs. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, enacted March 11, 2021, made some additional changes. Those legislative changes are noted in the relevant sections. Regulatory updates and guidance is forthcoming and will be included in the relevant sections once it is available.

President Biden has released a 200 page National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>

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