

TALKING POINTS – COVID-19 ISSUES

The following talking points were shared during the March 20 member CEO conference call with Gov. Mike DeWine. Please adapt to your local community as needed. Questions? Contact Ryan Biles at ryan.biles@ohiohospitals.org.

FINANCIAL IMPACT ON OHIO HOSPITALS

- OHA collected hard data and estimates of detailed financial impact from members. OHA estimates the total monthly impact of the crisis to exceed \$1 billion per month.
- Ohio hospitals normally generate approximately \$4 billion per month in net patient revenue. Hospitals are facing about a 25% reduction in their revenue for the duration of this crisis.
- Currently, 50 hospitals in Ohio are operating in the red. This crisis impacts every hospital, but there are specific communities that warrant special monitoring.
- OHA believes the creation of an emergency fund to financially support distressed hospitals at the state level could potentially be the most effective way of getting money to hospitals.

HERE'S WHAT'S BEING DONE TO SUPPORT OHIO'S HOSPITAL COMMUNITY

- Working with OHA, the governor and the departments of Medicaid and Mental Health and Addiction Services have expanded access to telehealth and greatly increased hospital reimbursement for telehealth services for the more than 3 million Ohioans covered by Medicaid.
- OHA and the American Hospital Association are advocating Congress eliminate Medicaid DSH cuts scheduled to begin May 23.
- OHA also is working with AHA to support advocacy efforts as they work with Congress on an emergency funding package for the hospital industry.

PRIVATE PAYER COMMUNITY ASKED TO SHARE THE BURDEN

The Ohio Department of Insurance has been asked to intervene and require payers to support hospitals during this crisis, including:

- To hold patients and providers held harmless from cost-sharing obligations for testing or treatment of the infection
- To stand down on wasteful and time-consuming prior authorization requirements, and not just for suspected cases of COVID-19

ADDITIONAL MEDICAID FINANCE REQUESTS SUBMITTED TO GOV. MIKE DEWINE

- Medicaid has been asked to consider eliminating or at the very least delaying scheduled hospital franchise fee assessments.
- The administration has been asked to advance HCAP payments for the 2020 program as soon as possible.
- An emergency rate increase has been requested for hospitals and other front-line health care providers under Medicaid, especially for the types of services and inpatients anticipated with the surge of suspected COVID-19 cases.