

Summary of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748) was passed by the Senate by a unanimous vote on March 25, 2020 and by the House of Representatives by a voice vote on March 27, 2020.

- o \$27 billion is set aside for BARDA for research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to prevent or treat the effects of coronavirus.

Provisions Related to Practice

- x Expansion of telehealth services
 - o Eliminates the requirement that ~~it~~ affords the Medicare telehealth expansion authority during the COVID-19 emergency period to situations where the physicians or other professional has treated the patient in the past three years.
 - o Affords new flexibilities for home health, hospice, Federally ~~qualified~~ Health Centers, and rural clinics.
- x Provides \$100 billion in direct financial support to hospitals, physician practices, and other health care providers.
 - o This support is for costs of treating COVID patients as well as to ease the financial impact on those who lose revenue due to reductions in other services as a result of the pandemic.
 - o Exact eligibility criteria and application process is not yet defined pending implementation.
- x Elimination of the 2% reduction in payment for Medicare providers (~~under~~ sequestration) from May 1 through December 31, 2020.
- x Allows for 90