On August 13, 2020, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) hosted a webinar titled, “Provider Relief Fund – Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Dental Update.” This memorandum provides a summary of the webinar.

**Presentation**

**Tonya Bowers,** Acting Associate Administrator for Primary Health Care at HRSA, gave a general overview of the Provider Relief Fund (PRF). The Phase 1 General Distribution of the PRF was allocated proportional to Medicare providers’ share of 2018 patient revenue. Payments to providers who bill Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) were based on 2 percent of the provider’s patient revenue, regardless of the provider’s payer mix. The Phase 2 General Distribution was initially focused on Medicaid, managed care, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and dental providers. As of August 10, 2020, the Phase 2 General Distribution is being expanded to include certain Medicare providers. The application portal has been streamlined and all eligible providers are encouraged to apply before August 28, 2020.

The additional Medicare providers eligible for the Phase 2 General Distribution include: providers who were ineligible for the Phase 1 General Distribution because they underwent a change in ownership in 2019 or 2020 under Medicare Part A and did not have Medicare FFS revenue in 2019; providers who received a payment under the Phase 1 General Distribution but missed the deadline to submit revenue or did not receive payments totaling approximately 2 percent of annual patient revenue; and providers who previously received Phase 1 General Distribution payments but rejected and returned the funds and are now interested in re-applying.

Ms. Bowers reviewed the stages of PRF payment: 1) determining eligibility; 2) validating the Tax ID Number (TIN); 3) applying for funding; 4) receiving payment; 5) accepting payment and attesting to the Terms and Conditions; and 6) reporting on the use of funds. Ms. Bowers reviewed each of these stages and noted that providers must begin the TIN validation stage by 11:59 PM ET on August 28 to be eligible for payments. She added that HRSA will be providing updated information on reporting requirements “very soon.”
Marta Saputo, Product Manager at UnitedHealth Group, briefly reviewed how to use the online portal.

Q&A

Staff answered a number of questions submitted by stakeholders:

Q: What is the difference between a General Distribution and a Targeted Distribution? Is this new round of funding a Targeted Distribution?
A: Targeted Distributions are directed to specific provider types or locations that are hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The new funding is a General Distribution designed to reach a broad array of providers.

Q: I believe am I eligible for additional funds. Do I update my previous application or submit a new application?
A: You must submit an entirely new application through the portal.

Q: I am a cardiologist who bills under Medicare Part B. I sold the practice in 2020 and now bill under a new TIN. Since I did not bill for Medicare and Medicaid in 2019, I have not been eligible for the Phase 1 General Distribution. Is my new practice eligible for the Phase 2 Distribution?
A: No, the expanded eligibility for providers that experienced a change in ownership is only for institutional providers that bill Medicare Part A. HRSA continues to evaluate opportunities for Part B providers.

Q: I am a primary care physician and received a small distribution from Phase 1. Am I eligible to apply for Phase 2?
A: Yes. Providers who received a Phase 1 payment that was less than 2 percent of revenue from patient care are eligible to apply for an additional payment.

Q: When will more information on reporting requirements be available?
A: HRSA anticipates providing additional information on or around August 17, 2020.

Q: How did HRSA develop its curated list of organizations that experienced a change of ownership under Medicare Part A?
A: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided HRSA with that information.
Q: Can a provider that purchased another health care provider under a different TIN in 2019 accept a PRF payment from the previous owner and complete the attestation?
A: No, the new TIN owner cannot accept payments from another entity.

Q: What is definition of “individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19”?
A: For the purposes of eligibility, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) broadly views every patient who is provided care after January 1, 2020 as a possible case of COVID-19.

Q: I received a small business loan through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Am I still eligible to apply for PRF payment?
A: Yes, so long as the recipient certifies that it will not use the payment to reimburse expenses or losses that have been reimbursed from other sources or that other sources are obligated to reimburse.