

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C5-15-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicare

May 18, 2023

Jennifer L. Martin, PhD
President
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
c/o dgray@aasm.org

Dear Dr. Martin:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Becerra and Administrator Brooks-LaSure requesting that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) retain certain flexibilities after the end of the public health emergency (PHE) for the COVID-19 pandemic. I am responding on their behalf.

Since the beginning of the PHE for the COVID-19 pandemic, HHS has issued an unprecedented array of temporary regulatory waivers and new rules to equip the American health care system with maximum flexibility to respond to the pandemic. We recognize that there is considerable interest in continuing many of the policies that have helped to expand access to care and ensure patient safety during the pandemic, and we extended the duration of certain flexibilities beyond the PHE through rulemaking and updated program guidance. HHS values your feedback and will carefully consider it, as input from interested parties is important to the policy-making process.

Resources are available on HHS's COVID-19 PHE website¹ that provide information on what was and was not impacted by the end of the COVID-19 PHE. In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has resources available on the CMS Emergencies Page² and the CMS Coronavirus Waivers Page³ to help health care providers with the end of the PHE. HHS will continue to provide updates for the end of the PHE, and we will continue to execute the process of a smooth operational wind down of the flexibilities enabled by the COVID-19 emergency declarations. I encourage you to regularly visit the HHS COVID-19 PHE website, the CMS Emergencies Page, and the CMS Coronavirus Waivers Page for the most up to date information.

¹ <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-public-health-emergency/index.html>

² <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

³ <https://www.cms.gov/coronavirus-waivers>

Thank you again for your letter. We appreciate you sharing your comments and concerns, which we will take into consideration as we move forward on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D

Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD
Director, Center for Medicare