



March 30, 2020

The Honorable Mike Parson  
Governor of Missouri  
Missouri State Capitol  
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 216  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-1556

Dear Governor Parson:

On March 27, our organizations wrote you regarding an expression of support for a number of actions Missouri's health insurers could take to enable more provider capacity and/or alleviate administrative burden on providers as they respond to the national emergency. We noted that several major insurers already have taken action on this front. We appreciate your consideration of the request.

Since our March 27 letter, our members have offered additional proposals for your consideration. They are listed below. We ask that you and your staff regard this as an addendum to our earlier letter.

- Modify the earlier proposal to allow prior authorization requests already approved to remain in force for at least 90 days. The additional request is that this standard would be in effect for 90 days after the national emergency expires.
- Ensure coverage for testing and cost of care regardless of the network status of the provider.
- Suspend prior authorization requirements for treatment and care related to COVID-19.
- Refrain from retroactive denials.
- Cover costs of COVID-19 treatment in high-deductible plans of coverage as though the deductible has been met.
- Refrain from discriminating against enrollees in coverage decisions based on the enrollee's COVID-19 status.
- Temporarily allow coverage for voice-only telemedicine.
- Suspend annual limits that might be imposed on telemedicine visits.
- Waive prior authorization and step therapy for alternate drugs during a drug shortage.
- Allow patients to fill a prescription at an out-of-network pharmacy and receive coverage at in-network benefit levels during a drug shortage.
- Discourage premium increases based on a group's decreased enrollment or participation.
- Eliminate cost sharing for appropriate vaccines.
- Suspend prior authorization requirements for emergency department treatment.
- Expedite credentialing of new physicians.
- Provide clear and consistent guidelines to process telehealth visits across payers.

The Honorable Mike Parson

March 30, 2020

Page 2

- Provide a mechanism to request that insurers provide bridge funding to hospital systems that remain in a level 3 emergency response for more than four weeks to ensure adequate revenue to support critical operations and supply chain efforts.
- Suspend routine contract negotiations and terminations for 90 days.

Thank you for the leadership you and your administration have provided in this public health emergency.

Sincerely,

Brian Bowles  
Executive Director  
Missouri Association of Osteopathic  
Physicians & Surgeons

Ron L. Fitzwater  
Chief Executive Officer  
Missouri Pharmacy Association

Herb B. Kuhn  
President and CEO  
Missouri Hospital Association

Patrick Mills  
Executive Vice President  
Missouri State Medical Association

Joseph Pierle, MPA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Missouri Primary Care Association

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