



November 20, 2020

Karen P. West, DMD, MPH
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Dental Education Association
655 K Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. West:

Secretary Azar has asked me to thank you for your letter regarding the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) disbursement of Provider Relief Fund General Distribution payments. Like you, I recognize the particular impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on health care providers, patients, and communities across the nation.

A critical part of HHS's work includes ensuring that our health care system remains strong and financially viable during this unprecedented time. HHS is distributing \$175 billion to hospitals and health care providers on the front lines of the coronavirus response via the Provider Relief Fund. HHS acted quickly to distribute the \$50 billion in General Distribution payments to offer immediate relief to providers who billed Medicare on a fee-for-service basis (Parts A or B) in Calendar Year 2019. In June, HHS began making General Distribution payments to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program providers, dental providers, and assisted living facilities. On October 1, 2020, HHS announced \$20 billion for another General Distribution allocation of the Provider Relief Fund. For this Phase 3 funding, applicants that have not yet received payments of 2 percent of patient revenue will receive a payment that, when combined with prior payments (if any), equals 2 percent of patient revenue. Phase 3 payments will also consider changes in patient care revenues and increased expenses incurred related to the coronavirus.

We understand there are many providers struggling to meet their financial responsibilities while still caring for their patients. We are grateful to dental school clinics for continuing to deliver outstanding care amidst such uncertainty. Please continue to check the HHS' Provider Relief Fund webpage at www.hhs.gov/providerrelief for additional details on the Provider Relief Fund and information regarding future distributions.

Thank you again for your feedback. As we develop future methodologies, we will consider your suggestions to expand funding to include more dental school clinic facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Espinosa".

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator