

The CARES Act & the SunCHECK™ Platform

April 2020

In the current COVID-19 climate, telehealth has significant potential to minimize patient risk in the delivery of essential services such as Radiation Therapy. To that end, CMS has updated billing requirements for telemedicine. Furthermore, the CARES Act has approved funds to support telehealth operations, including infrastructure, software, and administrative costs.

Several Sun Nuclear customers have expressed relief at being able to treat with confidence through these challenging times, because of their SunCHECK use.

Key capabilities enabled by the SunCHECK Platform include:

- Seamless communication from any secure computer, for the entire department, within the clinic or remotely;
- Efficient, phantomless pre-treatment QA of patient plans, reducing staff required to be in the clinic;
- Participation in care from quarantined or remote staff members;
- Review of patient plans and QA remotely, by all participants; and
- Quick and easy plan changes when moving from standard RT to hypofractionation, lowering virus exposure risk to patients.

"Iridium Kankernetwerk has been able to seamlessly continue to operate and perform patient-specific QA, where at other centers, patient QA has been significantly reduced or even abandoned.

We have taken quick action to move to hypofractionated treatments for a number of case types (most significantly breast treatments – going from a 15 x 2.67Gy fractionation schema to 5 x 5.2Gy, following the new Fast Forward protocol) and **with the ability to adapt quickly in PerFRACTION, they were able to make this change overnight, without interrupting the QA-chain!**

Dirk Verellen, Ph.D., Head of Medical Physics, Iridium Kankernetwerk; Professor Biomedical Physics, Belgium

TeleHealth Reimbursement Update

The [CARES Act](#) passed on March 27, 2020, with several support mechanisms for Radiation Oncology departments. Below is a summary of the relief and telehealth programs for eligible healthcare providers. Links with additional information are provided.

CARES Act [See full bill](#)

Telehealth Grants – Available Until Funding is Exhausted

- \$200 million for COVID-19 Telehealth Program – to support telehealth network and healthcare providers responding to the ongoing pandemic
- \$100 million for Connected Care Pilot Program – for eligible rural health providers to help defray health care providers' costs of providing connected care services
- Definitions from the CARES Act:
 - (6) Telehealth services - The term "telehealth services" means services provided through telehealth technologies.
 - (7) Telehealth technologies - The term "telehealth technologies" means technologies relating to the use of electronic information, and telecommunications technologies, to support and promote, at a distance, health care, patient and professional health-related education, health administration, and public health.

Additional information on CARES ACT Provider Relief Fund can be found at [CARES Act Provider Relief Fund | HHS.gov](#).



CMS Regulatory Changes Related to Telehealth

As we understand it, the following changes are in effect for duration of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Telehealth flexibilities for On-Treatment Visits (OTV), E/M codes, Virtual Check-Ins and E-Visits to new patients
- CMS expanded telehealth flexibilities to include Radiation Oncology On-Treatment Visits (OTVs) billed under CPT code 77427
- CMS established temporary approval of payment for Telephone Evaluation and Management Services, CPT codes 99441-99443
- CMS will allow physicians to provide Virtual Check-In services and E-Visits to both new and established patients under HCPCS codes G2010, G2012 and CPT codes 99421-99423.
- CMS relaxed supervision requirements for both hospital and freestanding settings, to allow direct supervision to be provided using real-time interactive audio and video technology for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic
- CMS waived requirements for face-to-face or in-person encounters found in NCDs and LCDs, and authorized Chief Medical Officers or equivalent officials to determine specific practitioner types and physician specialties required to furnish services, procedures, or supervision during this health emergency

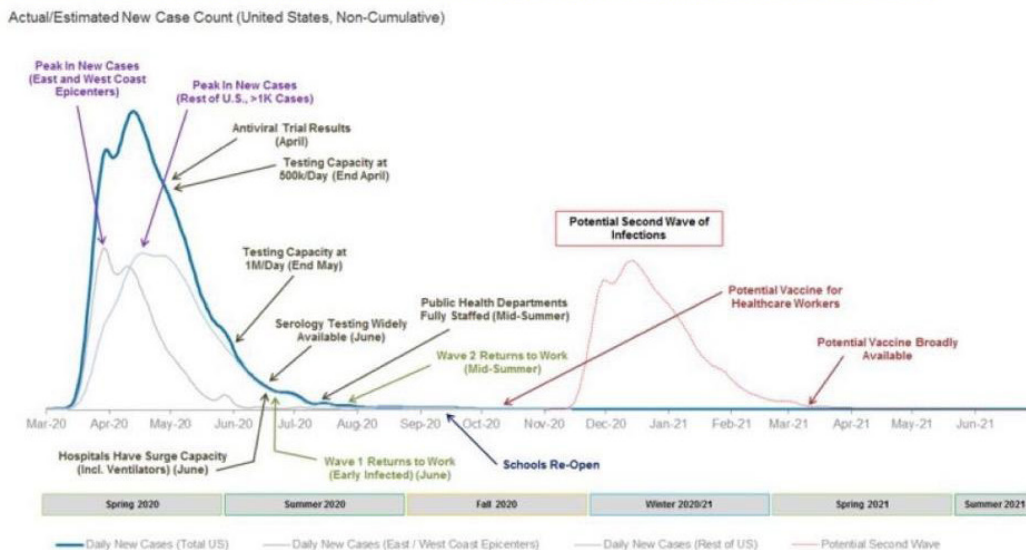
Additional information about the CMS COVID-19 policy changes can be found at the following links:

- [CMS Fact Sheet](#)
- [Physician-specific Fact Sheet](#)

Future Estimates

As the COVID-19 situation rapidly evolves, many estimates indicate the virus will have an impact for months, and perhaps years, to come. Prepare now for telehealth in the future.

Exhibit 1: Projected timeline and milestones for a return to work in the US



Source: Morgan Stanley Research
[Link to source](#)

Disclaimer: The information provided herein has been gathered from third-party sources and should not be construed as authoritative. Sun Nuclear is not a billing company and therefore cannot give billing or budgeting advice. **For more detailed information, please consult the resources provided and verify all information with your health systems billing and accounting departments.**