

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Commercial Payers broaden coverage after Trinity Health pushes back



Audience: Colleagues

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After extensive Trinity Health advocacy, commercial health insurers are beginning to contribute their fair share to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trinity Health System Office and Regional Health Ministry leaders [sent letters](#) to state health and hospital associations, state insurance commissioners and governor's offices urging them to demand commercial health insurers provide the same flexibilities and coverage for COVID-19 as those being offered by the federal government for Medicare. Some of those issues include the loosening of administrative requirements, speeding up claims process, expediting telehealth for all, paying for all testing and treatment, and acknowledging the financial complexities of preparing for and treating patients with coronavirus.

As a result of this advocacy, [in a letter](#) to the American Hospital Association, the American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) have agreed to partner with hospitals to accelerate the pace of treatment, transfers, discharges, payments and to eliminate administrative burdens. In addition, AHIP committed to expanding access to and coverage for telehealth services. This alignment allows health care providers, like Trinity Health, to focus exclusively on providing important care, and handling patient volume in emergency departments, intensive care and observation units.

[Read the Trinity Health letter to Payer Leaders](#)

[Read the AHIP response](#)