

## Please Support Continued Regulatory Flexibility

Federal health care regulatory flexibilities have been a lifeline for patients and hospitals by allowing innovations in health care delivery.

With the pending expiration of the public health emergency, Congress must pass legislation creating a glide path that extends vital waivers, for:

- Telehealth
- Hospital at Home
- Nursing home 3-day rule

**WHA Ask:**  
*Please cosponsor the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act, and ask your leadership to include a glide path for key waivers like the*

# Permanent Regulatory Flexibility Needed

## Important Health Care Innovation in Danger of Ending

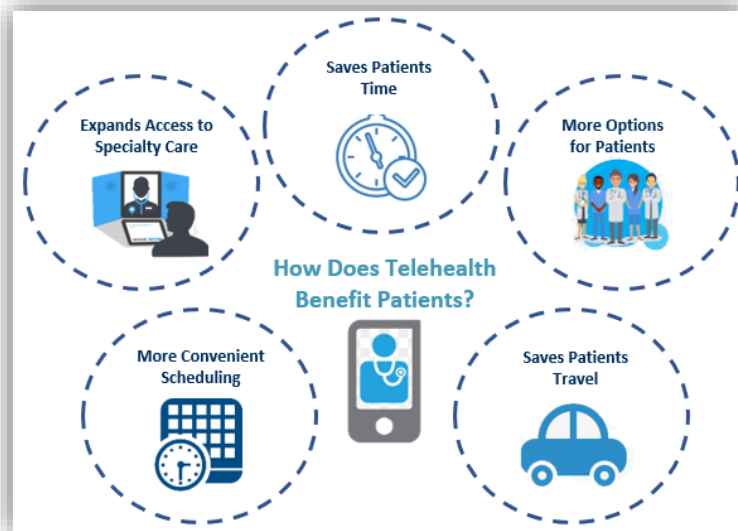
### Highlights

- Patients continue to benefit from the PHE waivers that allow hospitals to expand access to care and are expected to remain at least through mid-January.
- Congress established a 151-day glide path for telehealth, but other important waivers could end when the PHE eventually expires.

### Wisconsin Hospitals Need Your Help to Keep Health Care Innovations from COVID

With the COVID-19 PHE slated to expire eventually, there remains uncertainty whether key innovations in health care will be allowed to continue under Medicare.

- **Telehealth** – prior to the COVID waivers, Medicare only reimbursed telehealth for patients located in a rural, health professional shortage area who traveled to a health care facility to receive telehealth. The House has passed a 2 year extension of telehealth waivers, but the Senate still needs to act.
- **Hospital at Home** – CMS began a program called the “Acute Hospital Care at Home” program during COVID. It allows patients to receive an inpatient level of care for certain approved services in the comfort of their own home and has been tremendously popular. There are currently 5 Wisconsin-based health systems approved for this program and we have 5 other systems based in other states that have a Wisconsin presence and are approved for this program.
- **Nursing home 3-day stay rule waiver** – CMS normally requires patients to have a 3-day hospital stay prior to Medicare paying for a nursing home stay. The waiver of this rule has helped hospitals free up space for patients who need hospital care by helping them get patients to a more appropriate care setting in a nursing home sooner.



**Please Cosponsor Legislation and Urge your Leadership to Extend these Flexibilities!**  
*WHA asks our WI Delegation members to cosponsor The Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act being led by Senators Tom Carper and Tim Scott (S. 3792) and Representatives Earl Blumenauer and Brad Wenstrup (H.R. 7053). It would provide a glide path allowing the “Hospital at Home” program to continue while Congress contemplates a more permanent extension.*

*Please encourage leadership to include other important waivers that help improve access to care like the waiver of the nursing home 3-day rule in a year end package.*