

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Managed Care: COVID-19 Vaccine Prep Work Begins

A new CMS interim final rule is laying out the policies and procedures surrounding the forthcoming COVID-19 vaccine.

"We have developed a comprehensive plan to support the swift and successful distribution of a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19," says Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator **Seema Verma** in a release. "CMS is acting now to remove bureaucratic barriers while ensuring that states, providers and health plans have the information and direction they need to ensure broad vaccine access and coverage for all Americans."



The rule issued right before the election hasn't yet been submitted to the Federal Register and may undergo minor changes, CMS says in the 241-page document at >[www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-vax-ifc-4.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-vax-ifc-4.pdf).

"It appears that ... hospices will be able to bill for the COVID-19 vaccine and its administration as they do for flu and pneumococcal vaccines," reports the National Association for Home Care & Hospice. "CMS will develop billing codes for the COVID-19 vaccine and its administration and more information is expected to be released through future transmittals and technical guidance to the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)."