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As Nursing Homes are being required to care for COVID-19 patients, PPE, even if available, comes at a significant cost

New York, New York. April 6th, 2020. During this time of crisis, nursing homes are required to adhere to the everchanging guidelines from national and state authorities. These guidelines are often requirements to admit people with confirmed and suspected COVID-19 and adhere to appropriate infection control practices including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). These requirements often do not consider availability of staff or their qualifications or availability of PPE and its cost.

The Society for Healthcare Organization Procurement Professionals (SHOPP) and its members are fully committed to work and contribute to create meaningful solutions to address the many urgent challenges of dealing with the COVID-19 virus in nursing homes. Through education and advocacy, SHOPP helps its members bridge the gap between excellent clinical care and responsible financial outcomes.

CMS and CDC offered updated [guidelines on April 2nd](#): "If COVID-19 transmission occurs in the facility, healthcare personnel should wear full PPE for the care of all residents irrespective of COVID-19 diagnosis or symptoms." SHOPP, in conjunction with co-founder Michael Greenfield and Faygee Morgenshtern of People Powered Nursing, conducted a cost analysis associated with this requirement. Their findings demonstrated that an average facility with a census of 100 would have increased costs of \$10,000 per day to meet this requirement. This analysis was calculated using the mean number of employees, and current PPE pricing.

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It is unclear if nursing homes will be allowed to recoup monies associated with the cost of PPE and other required protocols associated with the care of a patient with or suspected COVID-19. Potentially the CARES Act allows for such reimbursement. SHOPP is calling for CMS to cover these additional costs.

CMS has made clear that nursing homes can admit patients with or suspected of testing positive for COVID-19. Furthermore, some states have mandated that nursing homes must care for people with COVID-19. The lack of access to PPE and qualified staff, as well as funds to pay for them, challenge the nursing homes that are truly committed to doing their part in responding to this pandemic.

“Keeping our patients, residents and staff safe will always be our first priority. It is nearly impossible to keep up with the ever-demanding changes and expectations with the limited resources we are being provided with during this crisis. SHOPP is advocating on behalf of nursing homes across the country to assist in our common goal of quality care.” Said Ari Stawis, Director of Professional Services of Development at Zimmet Healthcare.

About SHOPP: SHOPP.org was created by purchasing professionals spearheaded by Josh Silverberg, with the support of over 100 procurement professionals representing over 1,500 facilities in the Post-Acute Healthcare. SHOPP is non-for-profit, fully independent, unaffiliated and open to all stakeholders in the procurement process. To learn more about SHOPP, please visit our website at www.SHOPP.org.