

CMS Conference Call on COVID-19

Follow-up conference call to White House Coronavirus Task Force Meetings

March 12, Conference call with CMS Administrator Verma and FDA Commissioner Hahn

On March 12, the CMS hosted an approximately 20-minute conference call presented as a follow-up to the White House Coronavirus Task Force Meetings earlier in the week.

It appears that the CMS initiated the call quickly today, and they indicated that greater advance notice will be given for future calls.

Highlights

Today's call was very specifically focused on COVID-19 testing, test kits, authorization and lab approvals.

- FDA Commissioner Hahn stated that the FDA is encouraging any CLIA certified labs who are certified for complex testing to develop, test and validate their own COVID-19 test.
- Labs seeking to validate their own test will only need to notify the FDA. Then, in 15 days, the FDA may want to see their validation data.
- The FDA offered new HOTLINE regarding this new testing capability: 1-888-463-6332