

## TRUMP ASKS WHICH COVID-19 WAIVERS WOULD HELP ECONOMY IF PERMANENT

President Donald Trump recently directed federal agencies to come up with a list of COVID-19 regulatory waivers and flexibility that would help the economy if made permanent, as he signed an executive order during a cabinet meeting during which he suggested some coronavirus regulatory relief could be extended.

"I will sign an executive order instructing federal agencies to use any and all authority to waive, suspend and eliminate unnecessary regulations that impede economic recovery and we want to leave it that way," Trump said. "We want to leave it that way, in some cases we won't be able to, but in other cases, we will."

Trump signed the executive order calling for deregulation about a month after CMS Administrator Seema Verma already indicated some regulatory waivers used to help the health sector tackle COVID-19 could be extended at the end of the public health emergency. At the time, she specifically praised the new

flexibility that telehealth offered beneficiaries. Teaching hospitals also recently asked CMS and Congress to make permanent the expanded use of telehealth in Medicare.

The teaching hospitals say telehealth should be covered in any geographic area and for any originating site, including patients' homes; providers should be paid the same for telehealth and in-person appointments under the Medicare physician fee schedule; hospitals should be able to bill for facility fees when established patients receive services in their home via telehealth; CMS should expand the list of covered telehealth services to those covered during the pandemic; telehealth should be reimbursed for both new and established patients; and state licensure requirements in Medicare and Medicaid should be changed, among other requests.