

NEWS RELEASE

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New York Health Plan Association on Allowing Elective Outpatient Treatment Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO

"Since the outset of this public health crisis, health plans have been partnering with the state in its response to COVID-19, working to provide financial support to hospitals and others in the delivery, while also helping employers struggling with the economic impact of the coronavirus, and ensuring that individuals and their families get the care they need.

"Today's announcement allowing for the resumption of some elective and non-urgent procedures is an important step to addressing the financial concerns hospitals have raised. This will help alleviate their current fiscal challenges when coupled with the activities that health plans already have taken to support hospitals and other providers as well as the \$100 billion the CARES Act directed to hospitals – with New York hospitals receiving \$1.8 billion from the recent initial \$30 billion distribution – and significant additional federal funding they are expected to receive in the next stimulus package. Health plans will continue to work with providers in their local communities as necessary so that any further assistance can be targeted where it is most needed, while making sure to preserve the availability of affordable, quality health care for consumers and businesses going forward.

"As this epidemic continues, our members remain committed to protecting the health of all New Yorkers and ensuring the stability of the marketplace and the state's economy as a whole."

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The New York Health Plan Association represents 29 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.