



State of California—Health and Human
Services Agency
**California Department of
Public Health**



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

April 16, 2020

AFL 20-41

TO: All Facilities

SUBJECT: Prohibition on charging for federally supplied assets or pharmaceuticals from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

All Facilities Letter (AFL) Summary

This AFL notifies all facilities of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, stating that the facility cannot charge for any federally supplied medical assets or pharmaceuticals received from the SNS.

Under federal billing rules, healthcare facilities cannot charge patients for any federally supplied medical assets or pharmaceuticals, but they may charge patients a fee for administering medical countermeasures. Emergency personal protective equipment, medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals from the SNS are free of charge to those who need them (e.g., patients, healthcare providers).

Healthcare facilities must ensure that federally issued supplies and pharmaceuticals are used according to federal guidance. A facility may charge a patient for administration, however, if that medication came from the federal government (e.g., pharmaceuticals from the SNS) the facility cannot charge the patient for the actual medication. Healthcare facilities may keep all federally supplied assets in a separate storage area and clearly note the source to ensure that they are not misallocated.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Heidi W. Steinecker

Heidi W. Steinecker
Deputy Director

Center for Health Care Quality, MS 0512 . P.O. Box 997377 . Sacramento, CA
95899-7377

(916) 324-6630 . (916) 324-4820 FAX
Department Website (cdph.ca.gov)



