March 30, 2020

The MMS will continue to monitor developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the response by state and federal agencies. For current information, including updates from the NEJM, visit the dedicated page on the MMS website: massmed.org/covid-19.

If you have questions, we will bring them to the appropriate stakeholder for an answer. Please send questions to the MMS Department of Health Policy and Public Health.

Follow our COVID-19 activities on:
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Public Health

National Doctors Day. Thank you.

On National Doctors Day and every day, especially now, we appreciate you – our colleagues, our family. Your dedication, perseverance and resilience in the midst of some of the most trying times in the history of medicine is commendable, but not surprising. It is through your strength and your leadership that we can be assured that every physician matters and each patient counts. Together, we will heal.

MGH’s Grand Rounds on COVID-19
The Massachusetts General Hospital's Department of Medicine is presenting a series of academic lectures on the impact of and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These timely and informative talks bring together the leading medical experts working to address this new global challenge. The Grand Rounds can be accessed weekly via livestream. Video of the content is posted the following day. Read more »

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**Practice Management**

**Managing mental health during COVID-19**

During a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it is common for everyone to experience increased levels of distress and anxiety, particularly as a result of social isolation. Physicians and other frontline health care professionals are particularly vulnerable to negative mental health effects, as they strive to balance the duty of caring for patients with concerns about their own well-being and that of their family and friends. The American Medical Association has published helpful strategies on managing mental health during COVID-19. Click here to read more. The Medical Society recognizes the importance of physician wellness at this stressful time. We now offer a dedicated section of our COVID-19 page called “Physician Wellness.”

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**MassHealth coverage and reimbursement policy for services related to COVID-19: All Provider Bulletin 291**

MassHealth is introducing additional flexibilities for coverage and billing related to COVID-19 (beyond All Provider Bulletin 289), including eligibility, billing for covered services delivered via telehealth, telehealth and the prescription of controlled substances, and billing for COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory services and telehealth facility fees. To learn more, click here.
Medical Society letter to Division of Insurance on telehealth and administrative burden

The Medical Society appreciates the important role that Governor Baker’s recent executive order has played in the expansion of telehealth services to bolster efforts to increase access to care and encourage social distancing. However, we also have heard and recognize challenges and concerns raised by our members related to the administrative burden associated with coding and billing requirements. To that end, the Medical Society sent a letter to the Massachusetts Division of Insurance requesting guidance on streamlining these processes. To read the letter, [click here](#).

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