June 3, 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.

MMS Programs and Events

Video: MMS Annual Education Program recording now available

On Saturday, May 30, the Massachusetts Medical Society held its 2020 virtual Annual Education Program, “COVID-19: What do we know and how does that help?” Eric J. Rubin, MD, PhD, Editor-in-Chief of The New England Journal of Medicine, delivered the presentation and Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital, moderated. The hour-long Zoom recording of the program can be accessed here.

Practice Management

Deadline: Providers must act by today (June 3) to receive additional relief fund general distribution payment
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is reminding eligible providers that they have until today, June 3, to accept the terms and conditions and submit their revenue information to receive an additional payment from the Provider Relief Fund $50B General Distribution.

Providers who automatically received an additional General Distribution payment prior to 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 24, must provide HHS with an accounting of their annual revenues by submitting tax forms or financial statements. These providers must also agree to the program terms and conditions if they wish to keep the funds. Providers who have cases pending before the department for adjudication regarding eligibility for general distribution funding will not be impacted by this closure. HHS will need to receive all cases requiring individual adjudication no later than June 3, 2020.

NGS Medicare telehealth billing FAQs for COVID-19
National Government Services (NGS) Medicare issued an updated FAQ about new telehealth updates and waivers. This includes patient communications during the crisis, E/M services, critical care, hospital services, PT/OT/SLP providers, and place of service. Click here to learn more.

COVID-19 coding and billing chart from MAHP
The Massachusetts Medical Society continues to advocate for streamlined COVID-19 coding and billing. This chart is intended to serve as a quick coding and billing reference guide for Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP) member plans. It is updated, as of June 3, and represents a point-in-time snapshot. Providers should contact health plans directly for the most up-to-date information.

Using the CR Modifier and DR Condition Code
The centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) revised MLN Matters Special Edition Article SE20011 on Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) Response to the Public Health Emergency on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) to clarify when you must use modifier CR (catastrophe/disaster-related) and/or condition code DR (disaster-related) when submitting claims to Medicare. The update includes a chart of blanket waivers and flexibilities that require the modifier or condition code.

Provider Relief Fund – Next tranche of funding for providers

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is working on a process for releasing the next tranche of funding to providers, particularly those who have not yet received funds. HHS is testing an online portal which, should testing go well, will be used for providers to apply for funding. This portal could go live within the coming weeks.

No details have been released about the formula for funding, information required, or process. Providers should prepare their revenue information (including tax forms, financial statements, etc.) and information on expenses and losses incurred as a result of COVID-19 now, so they are ready to apply as soon as the portal is live. MMS will be closely monitoring the situation and will provide additional details as they are available.

Telehealth services in the age of COVID-19 for Part B providers webinar, Tuesday, June 9, 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This webinar will review the latest updates regarding COVID-19 and how they apply to Medicare Part B, the temporary changes for telehealth and telemedicine services, and review common questions. Following the presentation, additional questions can be asked.

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT
Register: Click here.
COVID-19 Medicare Part B advanced payment, repayment and recoupment process webinar, Thursday, June 11, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

If you requested and received accelerated or advanced payments from Medicare due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, this learning session is for you. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) expanded the accelerated and advance payment program for financial hardship relief during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Accelerated or advanced payments need to be repaid to the Medicare Trust Fund. During this webinar, CMS will review the repayment and process.

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EDT
Register: Click here.

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