



PLANNING and PREPAREDNESS

RESPONDING TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
RESOURCES FOR PHYSICIANS AND PATIENTS



MASSACHUSETTS
MEDICAL SOCIETY

March 24, 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](#).

Public Health

Thursday afternoon MMS member call with Massachusetts DPH

The Medical Society requested and was granted a second opportunity for our member physicians to engage the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) on an informational call regarding COVID-19. This call will take place **Thursday, March 26, at 3:30 p.m.** and will include Dr. Monica Bharel, DPH Commissioner and Kerin Milesky, Director, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH.

We also invite you to access important information, resources, and clinical guidance by visiting our dedicated [COVID-19 webpage](#). If you are interested in becoming an MMS member, please visit our [Membership information page](#) or email [MMS Membership](#).

NEJM Sounding Board: “Fair allocation of scarce medical resources in the time of COVID-19”

(Excerpt) Rationing is already here. In the United States, perhaps the earliest example was the near-immediate recognition that there were not enough high-filtration N-95 masks for health care workers, prompting contingency guidance on how to reuse masks designed for single use. Physicians in Italy have proposed directing crucial resources such as intensive care beds and ventilators to patients who can benefit most from treatment. [Read the full article »](#)

Practice Management

DOI issues bulletin: Flexibility in the Issuance and Administration of Insurance

On March 23, the Division of Insurance issued [Bulletin 2020-05](#) (*Flexibility in the Issuance and Administration of Insurance*) to provide information to all carriers - regardless of line of coverage - and self-insurance groups, about the Division's expectations to maintain coverage and preserve the Massachusetts insurance market during the COVID-19 public health crisis. [Read more »](#)

Telehealth update

As a result of evolving expansion in coverage and reimbursement for telehealth services, the Massachusetts Medical Society's department of Practice Solutions and Medical Economics prepared for you a comprehensive "Billing Guidelines for Telehealth Services Guide" that includes information on Medicare, MassHealth and the major health plans in the state. We are actively monitoring all the health plans and we will provide you with timely and frequent updates on all changes. We recommend that your billing team review the health plans' payment policies for recent coverage and reimbursement. [Download here »](#)

MMS Physician Practice Resource Center (PPRC) telehealth support

We are here to support you with your telehealth implementation process and for your general telehealth questions. If you need assistance or have questions or concerns, please contact us at 781-434-7702 or pprc@mms.org.

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