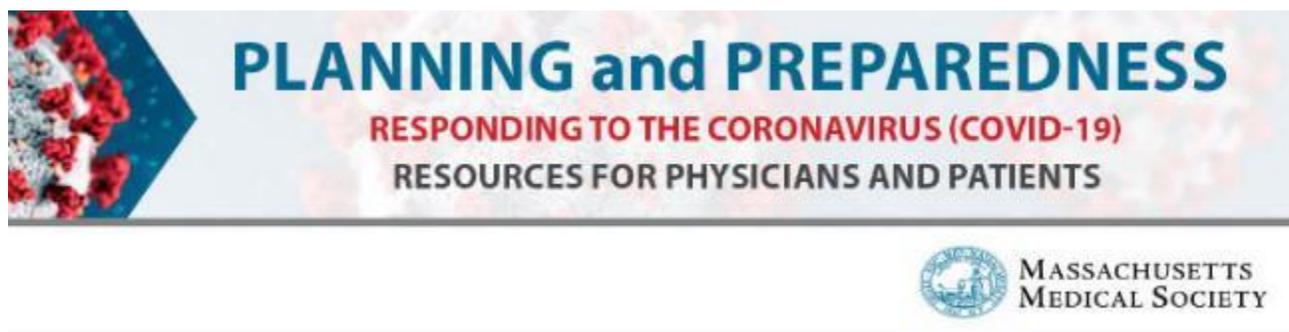


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March 26, 2020

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

Massachusetts Medical Society conference call with DPH

For the second time in as many weeks, MMS members were able to communicate with Massachusetts Department of Public Health leadership regarding COVID-19. The call took place on Thursday, March 26. More than 700 members of the Medical Society dialed in and were joined by Commissioner Monica Bharel, Dr. Larry Madoff, Medical Director of the DPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, Dr. Catherine Brown, State Epidemiologist, and Kerin Milesky, Director, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management.

We will provide to you in tomorrow's report a summary of our learnings and answers to questions on several important topics including testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Crisis Standard of Care. The Medical Society is in frequent contact with DPH, so if you have a question, please send it to the [MMS Department of Health Policy and Public Health](#).

Practice Management

DOI releases Bulletin 2020-06 (prescription drugs)

The Division of Insurance released [Bulletin 2020-06](#), which addresses prescription drugs and what is expected of commercial health plans. As detailed in the bulletin, fully funded Massachusetts carriers are expected to:

- Eliminate signature requirements for both in-person pick-up and in-home deliveries (with the exception of federal requirements around controlled substances)
- Eliminate any obstacles to mailing prescriptions to members
- Allow members to use their pharmacy benefit for early refills when appropriate
- Encourage third-party administrators to follow the same provisions

In addition, plans will be implementing certain restrictions on dispensing of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19.

Government Guidance

COVID-19 response plans – Update on MMS congressional outreach

On Friday, the Massachusetts Medical Society sent a [joint letter](#) with other state medical societies to congressional leadership detailing some of the most critical threats to health care providers dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter lists actionable solutions to address these issues, including policies around personal protective equipment, telemedicine, expanded testing capacity, surprise medical billing, Medicare/Medicaid,

and economic support to physicians, among others. In addition, the MMS government relations team reached out to each member of the Massachusetts congressional delegation with a copy of the aforementioned letter and [a letter from Dr. Bombaugh](#) that underscores the need for timely action on these policy priorities.

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