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April 14, 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.

As a reminder, physicians may continue to email questions to the MMS for assistance. For information on developments related to the COVID-19 response and resources available from the state and federal agencies, send questions to dph@mms.org. For assistance with practice management and sustainability, telemedicine, and payer relations, send questions to [pprc@mms.org](mailto:pprac@mms.org).

Public Health

MGH's Grand Rounds on COVID-19 focuses on role of journals

Massachusetts General Hospital's Department of Medicine's sixth lecture in the Medical Grand Rounds COVID-19 series, *Publishing in a Pandemic: How Medical Journals are Responding to COVID-19*, will focus on the role of medical journals in the development of new therapies and approaches to patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more](#) about the featured speakers.

- Event date: April 16, 2020
- Livestream time: 8 a.m. [Watch live stream here](#).

- Please note: This event will be videotaped and available for later viewing on MGH's website.

Practice Management

MMS testifies in support of liability protection legislation

On Monday, April 13, the state legislative committee on Financial Services held a virtual hearing on S.2630, *An Act to Provide Liability Protections for Health Care Workers and Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. The Medical Society submitted [written testimony](#) in strong support of S.2630, which provides immunity for health care professionals and health care facilities from civil suits for damages resulting from health care services provided during the COVID-19 emergency. These liability protections do not cover acts or omissions constituting gross negligence, recklessness or conduct with an intent to harm, or consumer protection actions brought by the attorney general, or false claims brought by or on behalf of Commonwealth. The liability protections would be retroactive to the declared state of emergency on March 10.

The MMS urged the legislature to act swiftly to enact these critical protections to ensure health care providers do not face increased risk of unreasonable liability exposure and can instead focus on providing the best patient care possible under the most trying of circumstances.

Telehealth frequently asked questions

The use of telehealth is rapidly expanding in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. [This guide](#) aims to help answer your telehealth frequently asked questions including basic tips, instructions, and resources. If you have questions, please reach out to us any time at pprc@mms.org.

Update from Blue Cross Blue Shield

The Massachusetts Medical Society continues to gather the most up-to-date payer information in order to help you and your practice. This week, Blue Cross Blue Shield provided the latest information regarding in-patient cost sharing, expedited credentialing, enrollment, and its planned pause on audits and claims review. [Click here](#) for a consolidated MMS FAQ on Blue Cross Blue Shield.

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