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April 2, 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 pprac@mms.org.

Personal Wellness & Well-being

Physician health resource from Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety

The Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety has published a new resource to aid in facilitating self-care for clinicians and staff working through the COVID-19 pandemic. The resource includes tools specifically for managers and tips on mindfulness. [Learn more »](#)

Public Health

MCSTAP service (addiction and pain) is available during COVID-19 emergency

Massachusetts Consultation Service for the Treatment of Addiction and Pain (MCSTAP) is available to provide you with free telephonic support when caring for patients with chronic pain, substance use disorder (SUD), or both. MCSTAP's expert physician consultants can help you with strategies for treating patients with chronic pain or SUD remotely during this emergency.

Please call 1-833-PAIN-SUD (1-833-724-6783), Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., to reach a physician consultant. Go to www.mcstap.com for more information or [click here](#) to schedule a consultation in advance.

Practice Management

New specimen collection codes for laboratories billing for COVID-19 testing

To identify and reimburse specimen collection for COVID-19 testing, CMS established two Level II HCPCS codes effective with line item date of service on, or after, March 1, 2020:

- G2023 - Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source
- G2024 - Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a skilled nursing facility or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency, any specimen source

These codes are billable by clinical diagnostic laboratories.

Medicare billing for professional telehealth services

Building on prior action to expand reimbursement for telehealth services to Medicare beneficiaries, CMS will now allow for more than 80 additional services to be provided via telehealth. When billing professional claims for non-traditional telehealth services with dates of services on or after March 1, 2020, and for the duration of the Public Health Emergency (PHE), bill with the Place of Service (POS) equal to what it would have been in the absence of a PHE, along with a modifier 95, indicating that the service rendered was performed via telehealth. As a reminder, CMS is not requiring the “CR” modifier on telehealth services. However, consistent with current rules for traditional telehealth services, there are two scenarios where modifiers are required on Medicare telehealth professional claims:

- Furnished as part of a federal telemedicine demonstration project in Alaska and Hawaii using asynchronous (store and forward) technology, use GQ modifier
- Furnished for diagnosis and treatment of an acute stroke, use G0 modifier

Traditional Medicare telehealth services professional claims should reflect the designated POS code 02-Telehealth, to indicate the billed service was furnished as a professional telehealth service from a distant site. There is no change to the facility/non-facility payment differential applied based on POS. Claims submitted with POS code 02 will continue to pay at the facility rate. There are no billing changes for institutional claims. Critical access hospital method II claims should continue to bill with modifier GT. [Read more »](#)

Government Guidelines

DOI releases two new bulletins (open enrollment, prior authorization)

The Massachusetts Division of Insurance has released new bulletins regarding the extension of open enrollment and expediting processes related to prior authorization. To read summaries of the bulletins, [click here](#). The Medical Society is in frequent contact with the DOI and will continue to provide you with updated information in this newsletter and on our dedicated [COVID-19 resource page](#).

More Educational Resources

New COVID-19 CME available (free to medical professionals)

Area9 Lyceum has released an adaptive learning module on COVID-19, using AACC Learning Lab for Laboratory Medicine on NEJM Knowledge+. The module addresses the origin of COVID-19, how it is transmitted, symptoms and differences in severity, complications, diagnosis, and prevention. The learning module is now available at no cost to medical and laboratory professionals. [Read more »](#)

MMS MediaWatch

Did you know the MMS puts out each morning a collection of relevant health care-related media coverage with a focus on Massachusetts-based news? MMS MediaWatch arrives in inboxes each morning at 7:30 a.m. If you'd like to receive it, you can [sign up here](#).

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