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April 22, 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.

Educational Resources

Supporting child, teen mental health during COVID-19

With schools closed through the end of this school year, social lives being held virtually, and with family members spending much more time with each other, it is important that we remember to focus on how families are doing during this prolonged crisis.

"Supporting Child and Teen Mental Health During COVID-19," an upcoming webinar sponsored by McLean Hospital, will feature speaker Lisa Coyne, PhD. In the webinar, Dr. Coyne will discuss how physicians can support the mental health of K-12 students, the foundations of coping, and ways to navigate social and learning environments during the pandemic.

- Date: Friday, April 24
 - Time: 12:00 p.m. EST
 - Registration: [Click here](#)
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Sheltering at home with an addicted parent

Alcohol sales are up. Anxiety and sleeplessness are increasing. What if you are a child at home with parents who have addictions? Please read this article to remind yourselves that our actions have consequences on the people who are so closely surrounding us these days. And, if you are concerned about a parent/friend/colleague/patient who you think is drinking too much, or a child at risk, there are resources. Here is an [excellent article](#) on growing up with an addicted parent.

Phone numbers that are useful to share:

- Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- MA Child at Risk Hotline: 1-800-792-5200
- Questions about alcohol or drug abuse: www.aa.org.

Physician Health Services, Inc. (PHS) is available to physicians and medical students in Massachusetts to consult about health, well-being and effectiveness at work.

Call 781-434-7404.

Public Health

COVID-19 serious illness and palliative care toolkits

Recently developed COVID-19 serious illness toolkits are designed to help clinicians navigate conversations with patients to prepare them for potentially difficult decisions about COVID-19 treatment. [Ariadne Labs Serious Illness Care Program COVID-19](#)

[Response Toolkit](#) and the [Center to Advance Palliative Care COVID-19 Response Resources](#) also include resources for patients to begin having these conversations with family members and trusted members of their support networks.

Dental Emergency Divergent Program

Abe Abdulwaheed, DMD, a trustee of the Massachusetts Dental Society, developed a new program in conjunction with Brigham and Women's Hospital. The Dental Emergency Divergent Program has coordinated a network of dentists willing to treat dental emergency patients during this crisis in order to divert patients from overburdened hospital emergency departments. For more information, visit www.dentalcupid.com. To date, the Dental Emergency Divergent Program has triaged over 1,000 patients away from the emergency department, with 1,500 dentists participating.

Government Guidelines

CMS launches new toolkit to help states navigate COVID-19 health workforce challenges

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) released a new toolkit to help state and local health care decision-makers maximize workforce flexibilities when confronting novel coronavirus in their communities. This toolkit includes a full suite of available resources to maximize responsiveness based on state and local needs. To read more, [click here](#).

Practice Management

Medicare telehealth vs. telemedicine

The National Government Services (NGS) received questions indicating that many are confused about the distinction between telehealth and telemedicine, and which rules apply to which services within these two benefit categories. While there is a perceived relationship between these types of services, they are distinctly different. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Accelerated or Advanced Payment Process: FAQs and resources

The National Government Services provided further information about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Accelerated or Advanced Payment Process, including stimulus checks and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Upcoming National Government Services webinars

April 27 - Accelerated/Advance Payment Process

- Date: Monday, April 27
- Time: 11:00 a.m. to noon
- Registration: [Click here](#)

April 29 - Telehealth services: Review of common questions related to COVID-19

- Date: Wednesday, April 29
- Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Registration: [Click here](#)

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