December 16, 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 NEJM, visit the dedicated page on the MMS website: massmed.org/covid-19.

Public Health

Answering patient questions about COVID-19 vaccination

If a patient questions your recommendation about COVID-19 vaccination, this does not necessarily mean they will not accept a COVID-19 vaccine. This is a new vaccine, and some questions are to be expected. Your patients consider you their most trusted source of information when it comes to vaccines, and sometimes they simply want your answers to their questions.

Click here to view common questions patients ask about vaccines and tips for how to answer them, compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CDC post-vaccine considerations for health care personnel

Health care facilities need strategies to appropriately manage post-vaccination signs and symptoms among health care personnel. The approach described in the linked document
below is intended to reduce the risks for disruptions in care and pathogen (e.g., SARS-CoV-2) transmission resulting from:

- Unnecessarily excluding health care personnel with only post-vaccination signs and symptoms from work.
- Inadvertently allowing health care personnel with SARS-CoV-2 or another transmissible infection to work.

Read more

Webinar tomorrow will discuss Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine

The Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research’s (CBER) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) will meet tomorrow to discuss the Emergency Use Authorization of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine.

- Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020
- Time: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

Register

CDC clinical resources about COVID-19 vaccination

Find information here from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on COVID-19 vaccine administration, storage and handling, reporting, and patient education for each specific vaccine.

Safely using hand sanitizer

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) posted a video on safely using hand sanitizer with tips for consumers and their families about use and storage.
Harvard Pilgrim COVID-19 information and resources

With the COVID-19 vaccine receiving Emergency Use Authorization, Harvard Pilgrim now offers provider guidance on administering the vaccine. The guidance outlines:

- Cost-sharing for vaccines
- Administering vaccines/becoming a vaccinator
- Vaccine allocation
- Referral/authorization for vaccines
- Provider reimbursement
- Guidance on coding for vaccine administration

DOI and CHIA meeting for providers: telehealth, prior authorization

The Division of Insurance (DOI) and the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) hosts regular meetings to offer providers an opportunity to raise questions and concerns related to COVID-19 commercial insurance provisions. The next meeting will focus on telehealth, prior authorization, and other topics and will be recorded for later viewing. The DOI and CHIA, along with the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) and the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA), sponsor these calls.

- Date: Thursday, January 17
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
- Meeting ID: 290 289 5643
- Passcode: 501

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