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

Public Health

AMA webinar series: COVID-19 vaccine update

Experts convened by the American Medical Association (AMA) will discuss the latest developments on the road to effective COVID-19 vaccines, including a deep dive into the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) process, specifically how the timeline has been shortened from a matter of years to a matter of months.

- Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020
- Time: 2:00 p.m. EST
- Register »

Practice Management

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care COVID-19 reminders and resources
New COVID-19 Testing and Treatment Grid — Please refer to this resource for guidance on CPT/ICD-10 coding for COVID-19 related specimen collection, antibody and antigen tests, office visits for an assessment, and treatment.

Cost-sharing — Harvard Pilgrim recently extended the waiver of cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing and treatment.

- **Viral testing** — Harvard Pilgrim is waiving member cost share for viral testing through March 31, 2021 for commercial and Medicare Advantage members in all states. Viral testing for current COVID-19 infection is covered when ordered by a physician or appropriately licensed health care professional.

- **COVID-19 treatment** — Harvard Pilgrim will cover COVID-19 treatment in full without member cost sharing (no copayments, deductibles, or coinsurance) for all fully insured commercial, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement, and Medicare Enhance plans through March 31, 2021.

- **Telemedicine services** — Cost sharing for telemedicine services resumed for commercial members on October 1, 2020, unless telemedicine is being used for COVID-19 testing or treatment (if being used for COVID-19 testing or treatment cost-sharing is waived through March 31, 2021, as noted above).

Referrals for telemedicine/telehealth — Referral requirements for all telemedicine/telehealth services, not only COVID-19 claims, were reinstated as of September 28, 2020. To learn more, please visit the COVID-19 page.

Tufts Health Plan update

Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2021, member copays and other applicable cost share will be applied to all non-COVID-19 telehealth services, except for primary care and behavioral health telemedicine services for Rhode Island Commercial members. Member copays and other applicable cost share will continue to be waived for COVID-19-related, in-network, medically necessary services. A COVID-19 diagnosis must be submitted on the claim for the waived cost share to continue to apply.
Effective for dates of service on or after November 9, 2020, monoclonal antibody
treatment (bamlamivimab) is covered (without utilization management) for the treatment
of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adult and pediatric patients with positive COVID-19
test results who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or
hospitalization. Treatment is administered in the hospital outpatient setting. Senior
Products member claims should be submitted to Medicare Administrative Contractors
(MACs). Tufts Health Commercial and Tufts Health Public Plans products follow the
standard claims submission processes.

Impact of telehealth on health equity from the perspective of large
health care systems

During this Clinical Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call, presenters will
discuss how telehealth has affected health equity in their patient populations before and
during the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics to discuss include challenges and opportunities
related to telehealth implementation. Presenters will share strategies to expand access that
can reduce disparities and improve culturally responsive care to help achieve health
equity within each organization. In addition, presenters from the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention (CDC) will share telehealth strategies that incorporate CDC’s
frameworks to Addressing Health Equity in Public Health Practice.

- Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
- Dial in: US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666
- Webinar link »

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