February 8, 2021

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

“Fireside chat” with Dr. Anthony Fauci tomorrow (Feb. 9)

The American Medical Association (AMA) is part of COVID Collaborative, a national assembly that has brought together leading organizations in health, education, and the economy to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. On February 9 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET, the COVID Collaborative will host a "fireside chat" with Dr. Anthony Fauci titled "COVID-19 Action in the Biden Era." Dr. Fauci and the co-chairs of the COVID Collaborative, former Governors Deval Patrick (D-MA) and Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID) will discuss how the new administration is approaching the crisis. After the initial discussion, there will be a moderated question-and-answer session with Dr. Fauci. The event will be hosted on Zoom and a link will be sent to registrants prior to Feb. 9.

- Date: Tuesday, February 9
- Time: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. ET

Please RSVP here.
**Practice Management**

**February 11: DOI and CHIA meeting for providers**

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, February 11
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
- Meeting ID: 290 289 5643
- Passcode: 501

[Join the meeting](#)

**FDA announces advisory committee meeting to discuss Janssen Biotech Inc.’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has scheduled a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) on Feb. 26, 2021, to discuss the request for emergency use authorization (EUA) for a COVID-19 vaccine from Janssen Biotech Inc.

A public discussion by the advisory committee members about the data submitted in support of safety and effectiveness of Janssen Biotech Inc.’s COVID-19 vaccine will help ensure that the public has a clear understanding of the scientific data and information that FDA will evaluate in order to make a decision about whether to authorize this vaccine.

The FDA intends to make background materials available to the public, including the meeting agenda and committee roster, no later than two business days prior to the meeting. [Click here to learn more](#).
Vaccine considerations for people with disabilities

This webpage provides information for people with disabilities or conditions that may increase their risk of getting and spreading COVID-19, and for their care providers. People with disabilities are more likely to have health conditions that put them at a higher risk to get very sick from COVID-19. Some of these conditions are diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and obesity. Down Syndrome is on the list of conditions that puts people at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. Check the underlying conditions list, conditions are added when there is enough scientific evidence to support putting them on the list. The list is updated as new information becomes available. Check state guidelines regularly for Phase 2 eligibility.

The NGS immunization roster billing job aid now available

National Government Services (NGS) developed the Immunization Roster Billing job aid to provide instructions that will help health care providers submit claims correctly the first time. This job aid provides information for submitting roster claims electronically, or via paper. It’s quick and easy to use roster billing for flu, pneumococcal and COVID-19 shots.