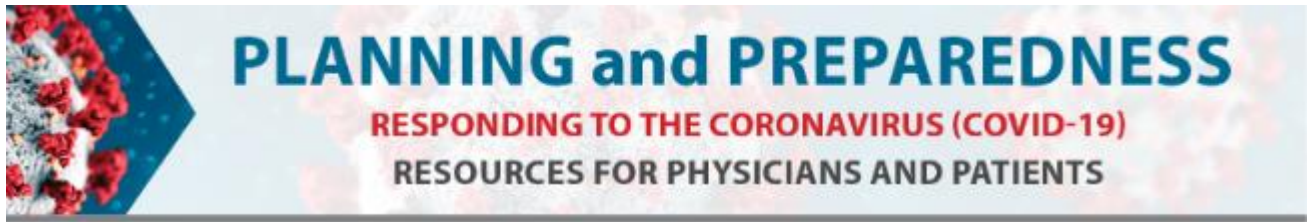


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July 8, 2020

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.

MMS Programs and Events

Psychological First Aid: Healthy recovery now and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 public health crisis

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted physicians and other first responders physically and emotionally. The daily occurrence of sheltering behind PPE, quarantining from family and friends after long work shifts, and the lack of time to mourn all exact a heavy toll.

"Psychological First Aid," a live webinar sponsored by the MMS and the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society, will:

- Describe the impact of traumatic incidences on mental health and resulting sequelae on first responders.
- Introduce the treatment principles for Psychological First Aid.
- Highlight the linkage between racial trauma and injustice, moral injury, and mental health aspects of the coronavirus pandemic.

- Identify ways in which Psychological First Aid can be adapted to various trauma and disaster settings.

Event details:

- Date: Wednesday, July 15
- Time: 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
- [Register here](#)

Accreditation Statement

The Massachusetts Medical Society is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA Credit Designation Statement

The Massachusetts Medical Society designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits TM*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Risk Management

This activity meets the criteria of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine for risk management study.

Public Health

DPH emphasizes wearing a mask in new public health video

As Massachusetts enters Phase 3, DPH is underscoring the public health requirement that individuals wear a facemask or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. “How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home,” a short 60-second video, is available in Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese. [Find the videos here.](#)

Recovered COVID-19 donors can help save lives

The Red Cross is seeking people who fully recovered from COVID-19 to sign up and donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as a treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a health care provider to be at high risk of progression to a severe or life-threatening condition. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid](https://www.redcrossblood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more.

Massachusetts-based funders support mental health care

Based on data gathered from their April 2020 survey of 2,201 US adults, the Morning Consult's Coronavirus Trend Tracker found forty-nine percent of respondents said the general stress and anxiety associated with the COVID-19 crisis has been challenging for them. The survey also found one-third of Americans reported that their mental health has deteriorated.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, along with MetroWest Health Foundation and the C. F. Adams Charitable Trust, launched Network of Care Massachusetts, an online tool to help consumers, caregivers, and professionals access behavioral health resources and treatment in their community—from Boston to the Berkshires. [Click here](#) to read more about the funders supporting mental health care.

Practice Management

BORIM extends and adopts key telehealth policies

On June 25, the Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) adopted two policies affecting telehealth. The first [extends](#) its previous order that allows emergency temporary license applications for out-of-state physicians through December 31, 2020, or 30 days after the Governor's order on this policy has expired or the state of emergency expires—whichever occurs last.

In addition, BORIM permanently [adopted](#) an important telemedicine policy that was temporarily approved at the beginning of the public health emergency. BORIM's policy states that the practice of telemedicine does not require a face-to-face encounter between the physician and the patient before the telemedicine visit, and clarifies that the standard of care for a physician practicing telemedicine is the same as a physician practicing in-person care.

Tomorrow: DOI & CHIA on testing and telehealth

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 Governor Baker's emergency order commercial insurance provisions.

Tomorrow's meeting will focus on testing and telehealth and will be recorded for later viewing.

- Date: Thursday, July 9
 - Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT
 - [Meeting URL](#)
 - Meeting ID: 290 289 5643
 - Passcode: 501
-

Supporting family caregivers of older adults through times of stress and isolation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office is hosting a panel to discuss strategies for supporting caregivers of older adults with depression, assisting caregivers who live apart from their loved ones, addressing caregiver grief, and strategies for engaging caregivers virtually.

- Date: Thursday, July 16
 - Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT
 - [Register here](#)
-

COVID-19 Medicare Part B advanced payment, repayment and recoupment process webinars

If you requested and received accelerated or advanced payments from Medicare due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, this learning session is for you. CMS expanded the accelerated and advance payment program for financial hardship relief during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Accelerated or advanced payments need to be repaid to the Medicare Trust Fund. During this webinar, NGS will review the repayment and recoupment process.

Session 1

- Date: Thursday, July 16
- Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EDT
- [Register](#)

Session 2

- Date: Thursday, August 13
 - Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EDT
 - [Register](#)
-

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