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.

Government Guidelines

MMS urges Congress to pass COVID-19 relief for states, localities

“It is past time for Congress to act and assure that our patients and all those who need care are supported,” said Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) President David A. Rosman, MD, MBA, in a recent statement. "We appreciate that Congress acted quickly at the beginning of the pandemic to provide some state and local funding, but the initial round will not sustain us as COVID-19 cases continue to surge. Congress has been debating a subsequent COVID-19 relief package for over six months with no action. COVID-19 does not care about political party. So, we must put aside partisan differences and act quickly to protect residents across the country.” Read the full statement »

Practice Management

MassHealth extends telehealth policy through March 31, 2021
As announced in a recent All Provider Bulletin, MassHealth has extended their telehealth policy through **March 31, 2021**. The MassHealth telehealth policy will help ensure members retain access to covered services, promote social distancing, mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to the extent possible, preserve health system capacity. [Read the full telehealth bulletin »](#)

---

**CMS COVID-19 vaccine information**

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) created a [centralized resource page](#) about COVID-19 vaccine policies and guidance for providers, health plans and issuers, state Medicaid programs, and Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIPs). CMS will regularly provide updated resources as more information becomes available.

For health care providers and office managers:

- Provider enrollment, becoming a mass immunizer, billing, and administration resource toolkit
- Enrollment for administering COVID-19 vaccine shots
- Coding for COVID-19 vaccine shots
- Medicare COVID-19 vaccine shot payment
- Medicare billing for COVID-19 vaccine shot administration
- CMS quality reporting for COVID-19 vaccine shots

---

**Medicare monoclonal antibody COVID-19 infusion program instruction**

On November 9, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the investigational monoclonal antibody therapy bamlanivimab for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients with positive COVID-19 test results who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization. Bamlanivimab may only be administered where health care providers have immediate access to medications to treat a
severe infusion reaction, such as anaphylaxis, and the ability to activate the emergency medical system as necessary. Review the Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers EUA of Bamlanivimab regarding the limitations of authorized use. Click here to learn more.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA: Coverage guidelines for COVID-19 testing

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) follows federal and state requirements for COVID-19 testing coverage. The article below clarifies when COVID-19 testing is covered and which services associated with testing do not require a cost share. Click here to learn more.

DOI and CHIA meeting for providers: telehealth, prior authorization, provider directory regulations

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 provider directory regulations, 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, November 19
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
- Meeting ID: 290 289 5643
- Passcode: 501
- Meeting URL »

Follow us on: