October 28, 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

CDC presents "Wear It, Don’t Share It – The Art and Science of Cloth Masks"

Watch Dr. Cliff McDonald, acting chief medical officer of the CDC's COVID-19 Response, share the latest scientific information and explain what everyone should know about protecting themselves and others. Dr. Nancy Burton, industrial hygienist at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOH), also appears in the video and covers guidance on cloth masks. Watch now »

Practice Management

SBA and Treasury announce simpler process for PPP loan forgiveness on loans of $50,000 or less
The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Department, released a simpler loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of $50,000 or less. Read more »

Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Program telehealth update

Recognizing that virtual visits are becoming a permanent part of health care, in 2021 Blue Cross Blue Shield's Federal Employee Program (FEP) will cover virtual consultations, medical evaluations, and management services with primary care providers and specialists as a regular benefit even after the pandemic is over. Members will pay the regular office visit copayments/coinsurance under Standard Option, Basic Option, and FEP Blue Focus. Read more »

UnitedHealthcare 2021 telehealth policy updates

Effective January 1, 2021, certain UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage and commercial plans will allow specific Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS)-eligible telehealth services when billed with the member’s home as an originating site.

- For important information on changes to UnitedHealthcare’s commercial Telehealth and Telemedicine Reimbursement Policy, see UnitedHealthcare's Commercial Reimbursement Policy Update Bulletin: October.
- Medicare Advantage plans will continue to follow current CMS guidelines in allowing the current CMS Telehealth List, including the expanded CMS code list for telehealth services and billing requirements.
- For UnitedHealthcare Community Plan policies, please refer to state regulatory guidelines and future Network Bulletin communications.

For additional telehealth resources, visit UHCprovider.com/telehealth.
DOI and CHIA meeting for providers: testing, telehealth, and 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 Governor Baker's emergency order commercial insurance provisions. The next meeting will focus on testing, telehealth, and prior authorization, and will be recorded for later viewing. The DOI and CHIA, along with the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, sponsor these calls.

- Date: Thursday, October 29
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
- Meeting ID: 290 289 5643
- Passcode: 501
- Meeting URL »

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