April 12, 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.

Practice Management

Upcoming webinar for providers on the HRSA COVID-19 uninsured program

Interested in learning more about the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 uninsured program? Participating providers are reimbursed at Medicare rates for testing, treating, and administering COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured individuals.

Providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing to uninsured individuals, provided treatment for uninsured individuals with a COVID-19 diagnosis on or after February 4, 2020, or administered COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured individuals can begin the process to file claims for reimbursement. Providers can learn more about this process, and file claims. Providers can also view Frequently Asked Questions about the program.

Join HRSA on Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. ET for an informational webinar. Click here to register now.
Strategies for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a series of strategies or options to optimize supplies of disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirators in health care settings when there is limited supply. It does not address other aspects of pandemic planning; for those, health care facilities can refer to COVID-19 preparedness plans.

Ask an Expert: Q and A with a CDC expert on current COVID-19 guidance

Dr. Cynthia Ogden, Science Officer in support of the Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), shared updates on CDC’s COVID-19 response, including the latest scientific information and what everyone should know about protecting themselves and others. Then Dr. John Brooks answered pre-submitted questions from the general public. To watch the video, click here.

DOI and MassHealth listening sessions on telehealth provisions (evening session added)

The Massachusetts Division of Insurance (DOI) and MassHealth are scheduling information sessions (see schedule below) to discuss the implementation of telehealth provisions in Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020 as enacted on January 1, 2021.

During these information sessions, DOI and MassHealth are interested in having conversations with physicians, consumers, insurance carriers, and other stakeholders to hear thoughts about guidance that the Division of Insurance and MassHealth might provide through the issuing of bulletins, regulations, or other communications to allow for the implementation of the noted provisions.

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) will be actively engaged in each of these sessions, advocating on behalf of the physician community. If you have specifics
consistent with the identified topic areas listed below, please contact Leda Anderson at landerson@mms.org or Bissan Biary at bbiary@mms.org.

DOI listening sessions schedule

- Wednesday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.; Planned topics: Utilization review for telehealth and telehealth standards to be added to managed care accreditation reviews.

- Thursday, April 29, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; This session has been added and is being especially offered by the DOI for physicians and other providers unable to attend previous daytime calls. Topics can include those previously covered and other issues as necessary: communicating coverage to patients; definition of primary care, behavioral health, chronic disease management; reimbursement and coding; appropriateness and utilization management.

To join the Zoom meetings, click here.

- **Meeting ID: 290 289 5643**
- **Passcode: 501**

Join via telephone:

- (646) 558-8656 (ET)
- (646) 518-9805 (ET)