April 26, 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

FDA and CDC lift recommended pause on Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine

Following a thorough safety review, including two meetings of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC have determined that the recommended pause regarding the use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine in the United States should be lifted and use of the vaccine should resume.

Providers should review the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) and Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers, which have been revised to include information about the risk of this rare type of blood clot, which has occurred in a very small number of people who have received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.
Webinar: Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine and Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS)

From **2:00 p.m. ET to 3:00 p.m. ET, Tuesday, April 27**, Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) will present the latest evidence on thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) after administration of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine. Speakers will discuss information on TTS and updated vaccine recommendations. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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**Practice Management**

New tax credit for small businesses for COVID vaccination PTO

Last week, the White House announced tax credits for small businesses that provide paid time off (PTO) to employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and recover from the vaccine's side effects. The new policy will reimburse companies with less than 500 workers up to $511 a day per employee. These credits are available for wages paid for leave from April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021. Guidance on the new tax credits and eligibility is available on the [IRS website](https://www.irs.gov/).

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SBA launches supplemental targeted advance for small businesses hardest hit by COVID-19

The US Small Business Administration (SBA) launched a new round of Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) assistance – called Supplemental Targeted Advances – on April 22, 2021 that will provide $5 billion in additional assistance to 1 million small businesses and nonprofit organizations that have been most severely affected by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Supplemental Targeted Advance program is the latest SBA relief program to launch as part of the American Rescue Plan Act on March 11, 2021.
Effective April 22, the SBA modified the Targeted EIDL Advance application process to determine if businesses also qualify for the additional $5,000 Supplemental Targeted Advance. To read more, click here.

April 29: DOI and MassHealth listening session on telehealth provisions

The Massachusetts Division of Insurance (DOI) and MassHealth are scheduling information sessions 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

- 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)