April 5, 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

Baker-Polito administration adopts CDC guidance to expand vaccine eligibility

Effective Monday, April 5, 2021, individuals with one or more of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) revised list of medical conditions will be eligible to receive the vaccine in Massachusetts. The list of those conditions is available online.

For individuals who have already pre-registered but would like to update their information to reflect the new medical conditions recognized by the CDC and Massachusetts as of April 5, the administration is building a feature to edit their submission that will be made available soon.

Practice Management
Updated MassHealth telehealth policy

Through All Provider Bulletins 289, 291, 294, 298, and 303, and in response to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, MassHealth introduced a telehealth policy that, among other things, permits qualified providers to deliver clinically appropriate, medically necessary MassHealth-covered services to MassHealth members via telehealth (including telephone and live video).

This bulletin, MassHealth All Provider Bulletin 314, which supersedes All Provider Bulletin 303 as of March 31, 2021, maintains the telehealth policy set forth in All Provider Bulletin 303 and extends that policy 90 days beyond the final date of the Massachusetts Public Health Emergency.

Providers and members should choose the most appropriate mode of service delivery (in-person or via telehealth) considering relevant clinical, social, epidemiological, or other factors.

FDA makes two revisions to Moderna vaccine EUA to help increase the number of vaccine doses available

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced two revisions regarding the number of doses per vial available for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. The first revision clarifies the number of doses per vial for the vials that are currently available, in that the maximum number of extractable doses is 11, with a range of 10-11 doses. The second revision authorizes the availability of an additional multi-dose vial in which each vial contains a maximum of 15 doses, with a range of 13-15 doses that can potentially be extracted.

Interim public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its travel guidance for fully vaccinated people to reflect the latest evidence and science. Given recent studies evaluating the real-world effects of vaccination, CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people can travel at low risk to themselves. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine.

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; 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 (EDT)
- (646)-518-9805 (EDT)

Follow us on:

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | Instagram

© 2021 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved.
860 Winter Street, Waltham Woods Corporate Center, Waltham, MA 02451-1411
781-893-4610 | 781-893-3800 | Member Information Hotline: 800-322-2303 x7311

To ensure delivery of all Massachusetts Medical Society communications, please add vitalsignsthisweek@mms.org to your email address book or Safe Sender List. If you are still having problems receiving our communications, see our white-listing page for more details.

| Unsubscribe |