March 24, 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.

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Public Health

CDC COVID-19 vaccination data tracker

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides detailed information on COVID-19 vaccination progress in the United States. Data includes doses delivered and administered, maps and charts. The vaccine tracker data are updated daily by 8 p.m. ET.

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Practice Management

FDA authorizes first machine learning-based screening device to identify certain biomarkers

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the first machine learning-based Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) non-diagnostic screening device that identifies certain biomarkers that are
indicative of some types of conditions, such as hypercoagulation (a condition causing blood to clot more easily than normal).

The Tiger Tech COVID Plus Monitor is intended for use by trained personnel to help prevent exposure to and spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The device identifies certain biomarkers that may be indicative of SARS-CoV-2 infection as well as other hypercoagulable conditions (such as sepsis or cancer) or hyper-inflammatory states (such as severe allergic reactions), in asymptomatic individuals over the age of 5.

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**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](https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-legislature/chapter-260-acts-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](mailto:Landerson@mms.org) or Bissan Biary at [BBiary@mms.org](mailto:BBiary@mms.org).

**DOI listening sessions schedule**

- Wednesday, March 31, 10 a.m. - 11:30; Planned topics: Reimbursement and billing
- Wednesday, April 14, 10 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 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)