March 8, 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

CDC issues first set of guidelines on how fully vaccinated people can visit safely with others

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its first set of recommendations on activities that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can safely resume. The new guidance is based on the latest science and includes recommendations for how and when a fully vaccinated individual can visit with other people who are fully vaccinated and with other people who are not vaccinated. CDC will update these recommendations as more people are vaccinated, rates of COVID-19 in the community change, and additional scientific evidence becomes available.

Practice Management

Patient Safety Guidance for the Virtual Visit
Many teams with limited experience and training in the virtual delivery of care were required to adapt rapidly to new and unfamiliar technologies. Concurrently, institutions and individuals recognized that this sudden and unexpected expansion of virtual care potentially exposed patients to safety vulnerabilities.

The Academic Medical Center Patient Safety Organization (AMC PSO) identified a need to address this unprecedented challenge and formed the Virtual Care Task Force, comprised of providers from a variety of disciplines with interest and expertise in virtual care and patient safety (and a patient and family advisory council representative). The Patient Safety Guide for the Virtual Visit is the culmination of the Task Force’s initial phase of work.

Upcoming Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)

During this Clinical Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call, presenters will discuss the role of telehealth in increasing access to health care during the COVID-19 pandemic and how telehealth can augment COVID-19 vaccine planning in health care facilities. Presenters will provide a summary of a recent series of discussions with the telemedicine community. Presenters will also share their experiences using telehealth tools for triaging and navigating patients, reaching low access communities, managing infectious and chronic illnesses, disseminating COVID-19 vaccine information, and monitoring for COVID-19 vaccine adverse events.

- **Date:** Thursday, March 11
- **Time:** 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET

To register, [click here](#).

COVID vaccine resources for hard-to-reach patients
The COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting Medicare-Medicaid dually eligible individuals, racial and ethnic minority groups, and individuals with disabilities. You can help make sure hard-to-reach Medicare patients get COVID-19 vaccination information during this public health emergency.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of Minority Health COVID-19 Resources on Vulnerable Populations produced fact sheets in multiple languages to assist organizations who work with those most vulnerable, such as older adults, those with underlying medical conditions, racial and ethnic minorities, rural communities, and people with disabilities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a Communication Toolkit for migrants, refugees, and other limited-English-proficient populations.

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