May 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.

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**Public Health**

**Virtual 5K run/walk to aid India's COVID-19 response efforts**

Several New England-based organizations, including the India Association of Greater Boston (IAGB) and the Indian Medical Association of New England (IMANE), on Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9, will sponsor the fourth annual #ChaleChaloforIndia 5K Run/Walk. This year's virtual event will raise funds to support India's COVID-19 response efforts. For more information or to donate, click here.

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**Practice Management**

**COVID-19 Medicare Part B advanced payment, repayment and recoupment process**
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently began automatic recoupment of COVID-19 Accelerated and Advance Payments, which were an advance of up to three months of Medicare payments to help physician practices keep the lights on early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the revised repayment terms, physicians should be aware that:

- These funds are loans that are required to be repaid.
- Repayment begins one year from when the Medicare advance payment is received, rather than 120 days under the original terms.
- The per claim recoupment amount was reduced from 100% to 25% for the first 11 months, and then 50% for an additional six months.
- If there is an outstanding balance after the 17-month recoupment time frame, the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) will issue a demand letter requiring repayment subject to an interest rate of 4%, a decrease from the original interest rate of 10.25%.
- Physicians may repay the Medicare advance payment in full at any time by contacting their MAC.

Watch this video to address common questions.

Underlying medical conditions associated with high risk for severe COVID-19: Information for providers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides an evidence-based resource for health care providers caring for patients with underlying medical conditions who are at higher risk of developing severe outcomes of COVID-19. Severe outcomes are defined as hospitalization, admission to the intensive care unit, intubation or mechanical ventilation, or death. The page summarizes data from preprinted and published studies that were included in a literature review conducted by subject-matter experts. The summary of information reflects current evidence regarding underlying medical conditions and is intended to help health care providers make informed decisions about patient care and increasing the awareness of risk among patients.
Video: Diabetes care and prevention during COVID-19

Dr. Kyle Bernstein, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Science Officer in Support of the Chief Medical Officer, shares updates on CDC’s COVID-19 response, including the latest scientific information and what everyone should know about protecting themselves and others. Dr. Beth Bigman discusses how to maintain critical diabetes care and prevention during the pandemic. Watch the video.

Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lifted the recommended pause on the use of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine following a thorough safety review. The FDA added and updated some questions about resuming the use of this vaccine to the Janssen COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions webpage.