



Medical Society of Delaware

Practice Matters

Keeping Your Practice Informed Through Weekly Broadcast Fax

July 16, 2021

Volume 9, Number 26

In This Issue

- Janssen J&J Vaccine Linked to Serious But Rare Side Effect
- DPH Provides Recommendations on Interpreting Positive PCR Tests
- Medicare Proposes 2022 Payment And Quality Reporting Changes
- Reminder – Payers Cost Share Coverage for Telehealth End Dates
- Second Round of COVID-19 Support Available
- MSD Offers Medical Coder Course

Reminders

2021 HIPAA/OSHA/BLS TRAINING

Get your 2021 HIPAA, mandatory OSHA, & BLS training scheduled with MSD Compliance Coordinator Dwayne Downs at 302-366-1023.

MSD IS ON FACEBOOK

"Like" the Medical Society of Delaware Facebook page for informative posts, pictures and events. Like & Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalSocietyofDelaware/> or @medicalsocietyofdelaware and turn on your notifications.

Contact MSD

302-366-1400
MedicalSocietyofDelaware.org
To unsubscribe contact
Kristie Stewart at
302-224-5196
Kristie.Stewart@medsocdel.org

Janssen J&J Vaccine Linked to Serious But Rare Side Effect

Janssen's Johnson & Johnson (J&J) coronavirus vaccine has been linked to a rare side effect, the immune system disorder Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS). GBS is a very rare complication known to occur after many different types of infections and vaccinations, including the annual flu shot and pneumococcal vaccine. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of the 12.5 million doses of J&J vaccine administered in the U.S., there have been approximately 100 cases reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Of these reported cases, 95 were serious requiring hospitalization and there was one reported death. Cases have largely been reported approximately two weeks after vaccination and mostly in men, many aged 50 and older. No similar signal has been identified with the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) issued a health alert indicating the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the J&J COVID-19 vaccine to include a warning of the possible increased risk of GBS. GBS is a reportable event in Delaware. This is the latest setback for J&J, suffering from production problems, as well as a rare blood clotting disorder linked to the vaccine. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/3manvhmp>.

DPH Provides Recommendations on Interpreting Positive PCR Tests

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is aware of incidents of individuals with recently positive SARS-CoV-2 molecular tests (generally, tests using Polymerase Chain Reaction [PCR] or Nucleic Acid Amplification [NAAT]) who have their test deemed a potential false positive, and are subsequently cleared from isolation following provider evaluation or a repeat molecular test that returns a negative result. DPH continues to recommend that all positive molecular tests be considered true positives and patients be placed in isolation until cleared by either a time-based or test-based strategy. A positive test should generally require a minimum of 10 days of isolation and exclusion from travel, and a subsequent single negative test does not invalidate or override a positive test and requirement for isolation. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/yt9ufs3a>.

Medicare Proposes 2022 Payment And Quality Reporting Changes

Earlier this week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the proposed 2022 Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) rule, which includes proposed changes to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and alternative payment model (APM) participation options and requirements for 2022. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/6wfda2yx>.

Reminder – Payers Cost Share Coverage for Telehealth End Dates

For information on Cost-share for COVID-19 testing-related telehealth, treatment via telehealth, and coverage for telehealth visits not related to COVID-19 please visit <https://tinyurl.com/46rsft6t>.

Second Round of COVID-19 Support Available

The second round of funding through the Health Care Relief Fund is available to support health care providers through the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Eligible applicants must be a health care organization or provider serving clients or patients in Delaware and have been in operation as of February 1, 2020. Funding can be used for COVID-19 related investments (such as technology upgrades, purchase of PPE, environmental modifications in health care facilities). The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is authorized by the State of Delaware to distribute CARES Act Relief funds to health care entities for expenses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To qualify for the funding, all goods must be received and all work must be finished by October 31, 2021. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/2f7scrtu>.

MSD Offers Certified Medical Coder Course

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the Certified Medical Coder (CMC) designation which validates advanced training and knowledge as an outpatient coding professional. Certified coders are in high demand and more physicians need Certified Medical Coders who are capable of understanding the complexities of the reimbursement process. MSD, in partnership with Practice Management Institute, brings you the "Certified Medical Coder" (CMC) course and exam. This five-session certification course and exam will take place on August 5, 12, 19, 26, September 2, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Medical Society of Delaware in Newark. **Seating is very limited for COVID-19 safety.** Visit <https://reg.planetreg.com/CMC2021>