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Reminders

MEDICAL FRONT OFFICE SKILLS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

October 21-22, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm at the MSD Conference Center in Newark
To register visit <https://reg.planetreg.com/MFOS2021>.

2021 HIPAA/OSHA/BLS TRAINING

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

Contact MSD

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Biden Administration Announces Plan For Booster Shots

Evidence is showing that vaccine effectiveness against mild and moderate infection and the Delta variant is waning, though effectiveness against COVID-related hospitalizations remains high. Higher levels of antibody titers are likely required to protect against the Delta variant. A booster dose produced a 10-fold increase in antibody titers. As such, the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and U.S. Surgeon General yesterday announced their plan to **make booster shots available beginning September 20th for those who received either the Pfizer BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.** The final timing regarding initiating booster doses is dependent upon approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). **Those 18 and older would be eligible for a booster dose eight months after completing their vaccine series.** Health care professionals and residents of long-term care facilities will likely be eligible first. **At this time the recommendation does not include those under 18 or those who have received the Janssen Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine due to insufficient data.**

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) indicates there is enough vaccine to meet demand. At this time, no large-scale events are planned. Individuals will be encouraged to seek a booster dose **when they are eligible** from either their primary care professional, a pharmacy, a DPH vaccination site, or a community vaccination site as they do now. The public can direct questions to the DPH Vaccine Call Center at 1-833-643-1715 or Vaccine@delaware.gov. The CDC is releasing three Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR) to share the science behind this decision, as well as talking points (*note the information was embargoed until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18*). For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/8auyxy6>.

Vaccinations To Be Required For All Nursing Home Staff

The federal government announced it is developing an emergency regulation requiring staff vaccinations at all nursing homes or face the loss of Medicare and Medicaid funds. This is the first time the White House has used the threat of holding back federal funding to boost vaccination rates. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/yszucnm3>.

Burkholderia Cepacia Complex Infections In Health Care Facilities

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) has issued a health update to provide the health care community with additional information regarding reports of Burkholderia cepacia complex (Bcc) infections in health care facilities. Patients have developed Bcc infections, including bloodstream infections, after having undergone ultrasound-guided procedures in which MediChoice® M500812 ultrasound gel was used. Delaware does not have any cases of Bcc linked to ultrasound gels at this time. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/4cn7549x>.

MSD Hot Topic CME Event - Performance in Late Career Physicians

The Medical Society of Delaware presents the next Hot Topic CME on Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. This virtual presentation is intended for physicians and will discuss physician aging and competency, as well as review of history, rationale, and implementation of age-based physician assessment programs. This activity has been approved for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. To register visit <https://reg.planetreg.com/HotTopicLateCareerPhysicians>.

CMS Codes & Payment For Immunocompromised COVID Vaccines

Effective August 12, 2021, CMS will pay to administer additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines consistent with the FDA EUAs, using CPT code 0003A for the Pfizer vaccine and CPT code 0013A for the Moderna vaccine. CMS will pay the same amount to administer this additional dose as they did for other doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (approximately \$40 each). CMS will hold and then process all claims with these codes after they complete claims system updates (no later than August 27). For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/yvjps59b>.

AMA Letter CMS Administrator on No Surprises Act

The American Medical Association (AMA) submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services our third self-initiated comment letter related to the implementation of the No Surprises Act (NSA). This letter addresses the good faith estimates and advanced EOB requirements in the NSA. The AMA previously submitted comments related to the implementation and calculation of the Qualifying Payment Amount (QPA) and audit process. For more information <https://tinyurl.com/3etjnvct>.