



Medical Society of Delaware

# Practice Matters

Keeping Your Practice Informed Through Weekly Broadcast Fax

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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.

### MSD VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Join us on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 pm to meet new members and connect with those you may not have "seen" in a while! This virtual event will feature discussions about MSD Committees. To register <https://tinyurl.com/e9emy3vv>

## Contact MSD

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## Vaccination Requirements For Health Care Settings

The forthcoming COVID-19 vaccine requirements are to apply to all Medicare and Medicaid-certified provider and supplier types, including Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Community Mental Health Centers, Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, Critical Access Hospitals, End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Home Health Agencies, Home Infusion Therapy, Hospices, Hospitals, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Clinics, Rehabilitation Agencies, and Public Health Agencies as Providers of Outpatient Physical Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology Services, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) Programs for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Organizations (PACE), Rural Health Clinics, and Long Term Care facilities. This is regardless of the size of the facility or number of employees. Additionally, it is important to note that CMS does not regulate care settings such as Assisted Living Facilities, Group Homes and therefore, these regulations will not apply to those facilities. This regulation will also **not apply to physician's offices** as these are not regulated under the provider-specific Medicare health and safety regulatory provisions, generally referred to as "Conditions of Participation." More details will be forthcoming in CMS regulation detailing expectations, which are expected to be released in mid-to-late October.

## State Acute Facility Guidelines on COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing

Last month, Governor Carney and the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) announced that (<https://tinyurl.com/4h4wvu2v>) beginning September 30th, staff at long-term care and other health care facilities regulated by the DHSS Division of Health Care Quality will be required to provide proof of vaccination or undergo regular testing to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to vulnerable populations (<https://tinyurl.com/4h4wvu2v>). The Emergency Orders, which contain the emergency regulation with requirements about the mandatory testing are effective September 30th. Also referred to in the emergency regulations is the Division of Public Health (DPH) Testing Guidance. Currently, fully vaccinated staff are not required to be tested for COVID-19 on a routine basis. All unvaccinated staff must be tested at a minimum of once every seven (7) days. Molecular and antigen tests are acceptable. Please refer to the emergency regulations and testing guidance for full details at <https://tinyurl.com/zda5em73> and <https://tinyurl.com/2ww5kjs7>.

## New Application Cycle for COVID-19 Provider Funding

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has announced a new application cycle for \$25.5 billion in COVID-19 provider funding. Applicants will be able to apply for both Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural payments during the application process. PRF Phase 4 is open to a broad range of providers with changes in operating revenues and expenses. ARP Rural is open to providers who serve rural patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To see a detailed list of eligible provider types visit <https://tinyurl.com/v543fma6>. The application process will close on **October 26, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. To read more visit <https://tinyurl.com/9ysvwka9>.

## COVID-19 Treatment Via Pill in Clinical Trials

At least three promising antivirals for COVID-19 are being tested in clinical trials, with results expected as soon as late fall or winter. The top contender is a medication from Merck & Co. and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics called Molnupiravir (<https://tinyurl.com/ta3vn8yw>). Two others include a candidate from Pfizer, known as PF-07321332, and an antiviral produced by Roche and Atea Pharmaceuticals, AT-527. The antivirals affect the virus's ability to replicate in human cells, which reduces the patient's viral load, shortening infection time and preventing the kind of immune response that can cause serious illness or death. Remdesivir (<https://tinyurl.com/539h7ubw>) has been the only antiviral drug approved to treat COVID-19 and is given intravenously to patients ill enough to be hospitalized.

## Help CMS Improve Your Experience with Provider Resources

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is conducting a study to help improve your experience with resources about the Medicare program and correct billing. Please share your thoughts by taking this survey <https://tinyurl.com/uy86kt8h>. Responses are confidential, and the survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

## Inspiring Hope Conference

NAMI Delaware's annual Inspiring Hope Conference is Delaware's largest mental health conference. It is a chance to gain hope, ideas, and new skills. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/3cweahy2>.