



Medical Society of Delaware

Practice Matters

Keeping Your Practice Informed Through Weekly Broadcast Fax

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Reminders

2022 HIPAA/OSHA/BLS TRAINING

Get your 2022 HIPAA, mandatory OSHA, & BLS training scheduled with MSD Compliance Coordinator Dwayne Downs at 302-366-1023.

MEDICAL FRONT OFFICE SKILLS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM VIRTUAL

May 4 & 5, 2023, 9:00am - 3:00pm. To register <https://reg.planetreg.com/MFOS23>

CERTIFIED MEDICAL OFFICE MANAGER COURSE (CMOM)

April 5, 12, 19, 26, 9:00am - 4:00pm. To register <https://reg.planetreg.com/CMOMDOVER2023>.

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DPH Announces Closure of COVID-19 Call Centers

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) announced the closure of the COVID-19 call center and the vaccine call center due to a low volume of calls and re-allocation of personnel to other critical health work. The Call Centers' last day of operation was Tuesday, January 31. Delawareans may still access critical COVID-19 information on the website at de.gov/coronavirus, where questions can be submitted via the contact form at coronavirus.delaware.gov/contact. General questions about COVID-19 will still be answered by calling 2-1-1 or by emailing DPHCall@delaware.gov, or Vaccine@delaware.gov. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/yc5t6rhh>.

National COVID Emergency Declarations to End

President Biden announced he will end both national emergencies for addressing COVID-19 on May 11. The \$1.7 trillion spending package passed last year ended a rule that barred states from terminating Medicaid services, a move that is expected to see millions of people lose their coverage after April 1. The costs of COVID-19 vaccines are also expected to skyrocket once the government stops buying them, with Pfizer saying it will charge as much as \$130 per dose. Once the emergency expires, people with private insurance will have some out-of-pocket costs for vaccines, tests and treatment, while the uninsured will have to pay for those expenses in their entirety. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/57657dfr>.

MSD's Pubs & Politics is Coming to Sussex County

Register to attend MSD's "Pubs & Politics" social on Tuesday, February 21st beginning at 5:30 p.m. at JD Shucker's in Georgetown. This event series is for MSD members! Join your colleagues for the first Pubs & Politics event of the year, where we will feature a chance to hear and discuss issues with legislators, as well as enjoy good food and beverages. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/bddpghdy>.

Voluntary Initiative Program Virtual Lunch and Learn

Register to attend the Voluntary Initiative Program Virtual Lunch and Learn education session on **Thursday, February 9th from 12:00-1:00 pm**. This informative hour is designed for current VIP participants and for those who are interested in participating or learning more about the program. The event will take place via Zoom. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ua5d>.

MSD's Hot Topic CME Event

Join MSD for a virtual "Hot Topic" education session on Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:00 pm. Speaker Wesley Ingram, Program Manager, NAMI Delaware, will present on **LGBTQ+ and Mental Health Awareness, Creating a Supportive Space**. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/5ck8vst6>.

Surprise Billing Rule Challenged by Texas Med. Assoc.

The No Surprises Act bans surprise medical bills and would require payers and physicians within 30 days to go into arbitration for settling out-of-network charges. In October 2022, the initial administrative fee for the arbitration process was established as \$50 for 2022 and 2023. However, in December 2022 it was announced that the fee would increase to \$350 for 2023 to help cover rising costs of the arbitration process. The Texas Medical Association (TMA) filed its fourth legal challenge in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Texas regarding implementation of the No Surprises Act. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdu4xwvjv>.

Evaluation and Management Updates 2023: Training and Q&A

This complimentary 90-minute training on **February 7, 2023, 1:00 - 2:45 pm**, will review the 2023 E&M documentation guidelines and requirements and provide examples on how to improve your internal documentation processes to ensure appropriate reimbursement and avoid compliance issues. A live Q&A at the end of the training will provide the opportunity to ask questions. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/2y7dt5nt>.

Positive COVID Test No Longer Required for COVID Pills

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revised the emergency use authorization (EUA) indicating physicians and pharmacists will no longer need to require a positive COVID test to prescribe Paxlovid and Lagevrio (molnupiravir), oral COVID-19 therapies developed by Pfizer and Merck. Previously, the treatments were only indicated for those who tested positive for COVID-19 and were at risk of developing the severe form of the disease. The FDA continues to recommend, however, direct viral testing to help diagnose COVID-19 patients who are eligible to receive the treatments. Read more at <https://www.fda.gov/media/155049/download> and <https://www.fda.gov/media/155053/download>.