EDUCATION UPDATES

2021 E/M Outpatient Changes and Office Hours

On January 1, 2021 changes to the Office/Outpatient E/M codes (99201-99215) took effect. Providers must use the new codes for time-based or global fee services performed on an outpatient basis and related to the same episode of care. New codes were created to align better with the fast-paced world of outpatient medical care. The full list of new outpatient E/M codes is available in the CY 2021 Resource Guide, MLN Matters Article MM12093, and on openpaymentsdata.cms.gov.

On January 7, 2021 Secretary Azar renewed the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The Public Health Emergency (PHE) designation is used to notify the public and states that a public health emergency exists. The PHE designation triggers the implementation of the pandemic preparedness and response plans. The PHE designation will remain in place until March 1, 2022 (determination by the Secretary).

For the 2021 performance year, MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, and virtual groups can submit an application asking us to reweight one or more performance categories. The application deadline is February 1.

To further support clinicians during the COVID-19 PHE, CMS has extended the 2020 Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 2020 Merit Performance Year (P1) for the 2020 performance year. MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, and virtual groups can submit an application asking us to allow one or more performance categories to be included in the MIPS 2020 P1 performance year. The application deadline is February 1.

2020 MIPS Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception Application Deadline: February 1, 2021

For the 2020 performance year, CMS issued a Merit Performance Year (P1) Exception to MIPS for Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception application deadline in February 1 for the 2020 performance year. MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, and virtual groups can submit an application asking us to include one or more performance categories to be excluded from the MIPS 2020 P1 performance year.

REGULATORY UPDATES

Wellwood will be updating our COVID-19 PHE. To do so, we will update the header with "COVID-19 PHE" and add a note saying "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2021." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022." We will also update the "COVID-19 PHE in effect through March 1, 2022."