



August 2020

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND TELEHEALTH BENEFITS PERMANENTLY FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES BEYOND THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

CMS is taking steps to extend the availability of certain telemedicine services after the PHE ends, giving Medicare beneficiaries easier ways to access healthcare especially in rural areas. Read more here:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-proposes-expand-telehealth-benefits-permanently-medicare-beneficiaries-beyond>

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN

BCBSM has revised their Temporary Changes Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic as of July 31, 2020. Read the updates here:

<https://www.bcbsm.com/content/dam/public/shared/documents/coronavirus/provider/alerts/covid-19-temp-changes-due-to-pandemic.pdf>

HHS TOOLKIT FOR PROVIDERS

The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) published a new toolkit that highlights how OIG handled previous emergencies to help healthcare providers respond to the pandemic. In it you will find key actions that can help your practice during emergencies. Find it here:

https://oig.hhs.gov/reports-and-publications/featured-topics/response/toolkit-healthcare.asp?utm_source=website&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=toolkit-healthcare-epr

PPR AND COMPLIANCE

PPR is in the process of having our Compliance Plan certified. We are nearing the end of the process and are pleased with our progress. However, we have a few clients whose Business Associate Agreement is outdated. We will be sending a new one for you to sign if we need an update from you.

PPR REMOTE AND ON-SITE

PPR continues to limit the number of people in the office to 3 per day. That is to allow for social distancing to keep our staff and clients as safe as possible. Each person has scheduled days to come in to the office to work. You may arrange to meet with your insurance specialist or to drop off materials to us, but we encourage you to make sure that the person you would like to see is available. All people at PPR are required to wear face masks when meeting with anyone or away from their desks.

And remember, we're here to help you. Don't hesitate to call at any time for any reason.