



**December 2021**

### **MEDICARE PART B DEDUCTIBLE FOR 2022**

Per the CMS Fast Facts page, the Medicare Part B Deductible for calendar year 2022 will be \$233.00. Please do not hold on to your 2022 Medicare billing in order to avoid the deductible applied to your claims. Providers have held claims in past years, and have been surprised to find out the patient has a Medicare Advantage plan or other circumstances that only delay payment, and could possibly cause the claim to be denied for timely filing.

### **63-FOLD INCREASE IN MEDICARE TELEHEALTH UTILIZATION**

New study by Health and Human Services shows a 63-fold increase in Medicare telehealth utilization during the pandemic. Telehealth during COVID-19 helped maintain healthcare access. Not surprisingly, behavioral health providers had the highest increases in telehealth utilization. CMS used emergency waiver authorizations to expand access to telehealth services. CMS is permanently expanding telehealth mental health services, and is considering additional services beyond the current end date of December 31, 2023. Studies are ongoing to understand the impact on quality of telehealth services. Read more here:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/new-hhs-study-shows-63-fold-increase-medicare-telehealth-utilization-during-pandemic>

### **CMS PROMOTES MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES TO GET COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS**

As part of the Biden Administration's efforts to encourage people with Medicare to get vaccinated and boosters CMS is doing the following:

- sending a letter to people with Medicare
- conducting campaigns and paid advertising
- including a message in Medicare Summary Notices
- sending email reminders, using social media
- conducting outreach to health plans
- and conducting outreach to nursing homes.

People can visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) for English, or [vacunas.gov](http://vacunas.gov) for Spanish to search for vaccines nearby.

### **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2021**

The PPR office will be closed on Friday, December 24, 2021, and Friday, December 31, 2021. We wish all our clients and their patients a healthy and happy holiday season.

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