



Celebrating our caregivers' excellence... Thank you for all you do!

Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

MaineMDA Seeks Your Feedback!

We know many of you are beginning or in the midst of your COVID 19 vaccination clinics. The Maine Medical Directors Association is seeking anonymous feedback on your clinic experiences so far. Please complete this quick 2 minute survey with your vaccine clinic feedback. This will assist in advocacy efforts moving forward into the next stage of the Maine Vaccination Plan.

Web link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GV9W5K5>

Mobile link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RQ3LFNL>

New #GetVaccinated Videos Now Available

Dr. David Gifford, AHCA/NCAL Chief Medical Officer, addresses important questions about the COVID-19 vaccine in a series of new videos as part of the [AHCA/NCAL #GetVaccinated campaign](#). Questions include:

- [Why Should I Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?](#)
- [Does the COVID-19 Vaccine Cause Allergic Reactions?](#)
- [What are the Side Effects of the COVID-19 Vaccine?](#)
- [How Was the COVID-19 Vaccine Developed So Quickly?](#)
- [Will the COVID-19 Vaccine Cause Infertility?](#)
- [Why Should I Get the COVID-19 Vaccine Now When I Can Wait to See What Happens?](#)

Seats Available in Next Week's Assisted Housing Infection Control Program

As you know, there are new infection control and prevention rules that have been provisionally adopted by DHHS for Assisted Housing Programs in Maine. The new rules include measures to improve and clarify infection surveillance, control, mitigation, and crisis staffing planning in Maine's assisted housing facilities (assisted living, residential care facilities, and private non-medical institutions).

To help prepare our Assisted Living members, there are seats available in our upcoming webinar series, ***The New Normal for Infection Control in Assisted Housing***. This series, and the corresponding toolkit (including infection prevention policy templates), has become an excellent resource for many assisted housing providers across Maine as they look for ways to mitigate future outbreaks. The content aligns with CMS infection prevention practices as well as CDC guidance on outbreaks and surveillance and infection prevention best practices. Topics include infection control and reducing risk, standard/other type precautions, PPE, department-specific procedures, COVID-19 policies and procedures, rule changes, and more.

MHCA will offer this four-part webinar series online (via Zoom) beginning at 10:00AM on the following dates: **January 12, 13, 19 & 20, 2021**. For details, you may visit the [Event Page](#) on our website.

To enroll, you must [register online](#) and process your payment through PayPal®. You do not need a PayPal® account to use this service; you can process your payment as a PayPal guest. Once approved, a confirmation will be sent with your unique link to join the webcasts.

CMS Adds Six New COVID-19 ICD-10 Codes Effective January 1, 2021

In an off-cycle update to the [2021 ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines](#) posted in December in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) implemented six new diagnosis codes into the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), effective January 1, 2021.

The new codes are:

- J12.82 - Pneumonia due to COVID-19
- M35.81 - Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome
- M35.89 - Other specified systemic involvement of connective tissue
- Z11.52 - Encounter for screening for COVID-1 (Note: Per ICD-10-CM coding guidelines, this code should NOT be used during the pandemic)
- Z20.822 - Contact with and suspected exposure to COVID-19
- Z86.16 - Personal History of COVID-19

See pages 28-33 of the update to the [2021 ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines](#) for specific details related to COVID-19 diagnosis coding situations and sequencing guidance. In addition, the files located in the Downloads section of this [CMS 2021 ICD-10-CM webpage](#) contain additional details to the updated codes.

AHCA notes that at this point, the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) [ICD-10 Mappings](#) file has not been updated to include these new ICD-10 codes, and using them in MDS item I0020B – Primary Reason for SNF stay may create problems with MDS locking and submission with some software vendors. Additionally, case-mix assignment for Medicare PPS and some state OBRA PDPM assessments may be impacted. Until CMS updates the PDPM mappings file, if a provider needs to use one of these new codes for stays beginning January 1, 2021 as a primary or secondary diagnosis, AHCA recommends that provider MDS and billing staffs contact their software vendors for guidance.

What You Should Know: Economic Impact Payments and Representative Payees

Millions of Americans are slated to receive a second Economic Impact Payment (EIP) as part of the recently passed and enacted Coronavirus bill. This follows the EIP that was distributed in 2020 as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These payments aim to support Americans and provide some financial relief.

It is important to note that CARES Act EIP requirements also apply to the EIPs in the most recent stimulus package, as well as any future payments. If you or someone you know serves as a representative payee for a Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiary, that designee is only responsible for managing Social Security or SSI benefits. The EIP is not an SSA benefit, and it belongs to the beneficiary. Representative payees should discuss the payment with the beneficiary, when possible. If the beneficiary requests access to the funds, they're obligated to provide it.

Learn more about EIPs, including how they're being delivered to people with representative payees, at the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#) site. You can also learn more about these payments from the [Internal Revenue Service](#) (IRS).

AHCA/NCAL also recorded a [webinar](#) in 2020 focused on EIPs from the IRS and important facts for skilled nursing facilities, ICFs/IID, and assisted living centers to know on the use of them. A variety of resources from the Social Security Administration to the National Center on Elder Law and Rights are available at the end of the webinar.

Sincerely,

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