



Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

Reminder: Assessments Still Required During Pandemic

MHCA reminds members that LTC and PASRR assessments are still required during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the necessary State and Federal authorizations, Maximus moved to telephonic assessments for LTC and PASRR in March and increased their capacity to manage these processes. Maximus recently shared that some facilities may be challenged, either by staffing or technology limitations, to complete the assessments in a timely fashion. It is important to note that these assessments are mandatory and critical to your operations.

Please see the [attached document](#) that includes Maximus-identified best practices and the Maine ASA team contact chart for members to keep as a resource. Most importantly, if you need assistance with use of technology to conduct these assessments, please reach out to ngrosso@mehca.org or dwatford@mehca.org. Please note if your facility has an overdue assessment, you may be contacted by the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program staff who are also willing and available to assist from the consumer perspective.

HHS Offers Medicaid Allocation Application Tutorials

The HHS Provider Relief Fund Medicaid Application Process while a positive step also has come with a number of questions. Unlike Tranches 1-3, the Medicaid Allocation requires an application requiring an array of data. Today, HHS announced two Medicaid Allocation Application online tutorials. The date options are below and ***please note: you must pre-register.***

- [Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 2 PM ET](#)
- [Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 2 PM ET](#)

Meanwhile, AHCA/NCAL has submitted a list of questions about the application process, along with other provider groups and are awaiting responses from HHS. Medicaid Allocation Applications on due on July 20. View AHCA/NCAL's Medicaid Allocation FAQs in a recent [blog post](#).

Disposable Isolation Gowns & Gloves, PPE Opportunities through MHCABS GPO Partner

Provista/Vizient has notified us that Tomahawk Wildcat (MS9290) has disposable isolation gowns available. Members may place an order via jwoodyard@tomahawksafety.com. These are domestic isolation gowns that meet AAMI Level 1 and Level 2 standards to address product shortages as a result of Covid-19. Members may order samples and place an order as appropriate under the new pricing and program. There are 700k gowns available to ship in July. For more information, please see [FAQ](#).

In addition, PlatinumCode Tourniquet (MS8442) has Nitrile Gloves available. These are medical grade blue, powder-free, nitrile exam gloves. They are latex-free, ambidextrous gloves with textured fingers and beaded cuffs. Members may place an order via their normal ordering process with PlatinumCode. Members may have to establish vendor relationship to order products. To establish a vendor relationship, contact Dianne at the

Association office. For more information, please see [FAQ](#).

Reminder that there is not a guarantee of product. Products are available on a first come, first serve basis. Members are subject to product availability by the supplier.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Dianne Chicoine, Director of Business & Information Services Email: dchicoine@mehca.org.

AFA Committee Meets Tomorrow for Financial Check-in

The Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs will meet tomorrow, Friday, June 19th at 10:00 am to receive an update on State fiscal matters from Commissioner Kirstin Figueroa, Department of Administrative and Financial Services. The agenda includes: fiscal year revenue report; an update on the expected impact of the pandemic on revenue and expenditures; overview of the Administration's framework for assessing special needs and setting priorities for the upcoming biennium. The Commissioner will also provide an update on Federal Stimulus Funding (aka CARES) funding parameters, distributions made to date, planned distributions and proposed mechanisms for legislative input.

Immediately following the update, the Committee will hear from several health care and social service representatives and other not for profit entities about their current challenges, how they have responded and their ideas on how Maine government can support them.

The Maine State House remains closed to the public, however, members of the public may listen to the meeting through the internet at: <http://legislature.maine.gov/Audio/#228> or watch it live on the Maine Legislature's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx7hJbrB_-t8KJgDiAbPuwg

Webinar on Economic Impact Payments for Social Security and SSI Beneficiaries with Representative Payees

AHCA/NCAL recently put together a [webinar recording](#) on economic impact payments (EIPs) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and important facts for skilled nursing facilities, ICFs/IID, and assisted living centers to know on the use of them. The IRS began issuing electronic EIPs on or about April 15 to people who received a tax refund electronically. The webinar covers what EIPs are and what steps we should take to protect beneficiaries receiving this benefit. EIP funds belong to the resident and they make decisions about fund use or may request assistance and guidance (such supports are acceptable). The recording also covers such areas as whether a resident can give their EIP funds to a family member and what to do if EIP funds are being misused. Finally, 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 in which you can find further information that will be of assistance.

Thank you for all you do to care for your residents and staff.

Nadine L. Grosso
Vice President and Director of Communications
ngrosso@mehca.org