



[Visit our COVID-19 Page Here](#)

Dear Member:

#### **MHCA Thank You Signs on the Way**

In the coming days, MHCA will be distributing lawn signs (see graphic above) to your facilities, thanking your staff for making a difference every day of this pandemic. Signs are being distributed in a variety of ways to ensure every member receives one, including by MHCA staff, corporate offices, Long Term Care Ombudsman program, Monty Rand Photography, courier and traditional mail. Members will be receiving further email communication as needed. With social distancing in mind, these signs will be placed outside of your buildings near facility signs or entrances as appropriate. Please feel free to move them as desired. MHCA is providing one sign per member and we anticipate distribution will be complete by the end of next week, if not sooner.

#### **Maine HETL Testing Process**

MHCA has confirmed with the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) the process for our member facilities who are seeking testing of residents and/or staff.

- Samples should be delivered to HETL within 72 hours of swab.
- Samples should be kept cold in a cooler with an ice pack (not recommending loose ice) during transport.
- There is NO need for a medical courier. Staff members from the sending facility can transport samples to HETL.
- HETL will receive samples 24hrs/7days a week.
- HETL does NOT currently have less restrictive guidance from Maine CDC regarding testing of asymptomatic individuals.
- If less restrictive guidance is released, HETL will work with facilities based on that guidance.
- Current ME CDC testing practices should continue until guidance is amended. (i.e. facility wide testing is coordinated with the ME CDC after 3 positive tests are identified)
- If you are bringing a large quantity of samples to HETL, a call ahead would be recommended for the lab technicians to prepare for delivery. The number to call is 207-287-1722.
- The HETL address for delivery is: 221 State Street Augusta, Maine 04333
- If you are delivering off-hours (Before 7:30am or after 5:00pm) there is a number posted on the door to call for someone to come to collect the samples and bring them to the lab for testing.

- Current turnaround time is on average 24 hrs. from delivery.

**Reminder - Maximus Assessment Call this week**

The next Maine ASA Stakeholder Forum Call is scheduled for Friday, May 15th, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Join the Program Team for informative COVID-19 updates for Nursing Facilities and Hospital providers.

Topics to be covered include:

- 1135 Waiver support related to PASRR assessments
- Nursing Facility emergency classification process
- Extension of virtual PASRR and Long-Term Care assessment

Join Zoom meeting:

<https://maximus.zoom.us/j/95398988172>

Meeting ID: 953 9898 8172

Join by phone:

877.853.5257 US Toll-free

888.475.4499 US Toll-free

Request an invitation:

If you or others on your team would like to be included in the Outlook invitation for this informative session, contact the ME ASA Help Desk directly at:

[Ask-MaineASA@maximus.com](mailto:Ask-MaineASA@maximus.com).

**Attn Billing Depts: Many Part B Therapy Code Edits Removed**

As part of a recent COVID-19 related update to National Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) files, CMS announced the removal of many problematic claim coding edits related to Medicare Part B PT, OT, and SLP services. The changes are effective for dates of service beginning April 1, 2020. Medicaid and most private insurance also follow the CCI edit policies. Provider billing staff should review the updated files available on the [PTP Coding Edit webpage](#) and the [Quarterly PTP and MUE Version Update Changes webpage](#).

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

Nadine L. Grosso

Vice President and Director of Communications

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