Addressing the COVID-19 Crisis: An Open Forum Webinar Series for Pharmacists

August 6, 2020
Michael D. Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP
Dean and Professor
Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy
President, APhA

Host and Moderator
Today’s Focus:

Discuss how pharmacists can mitigate the impact on patients and other pharmacy staff members in the event they test positive for COVID-19.
Roger Paganelli, RPh
Owner & Supervising Pharmacist
Mt. Carmel Pharmacy

Guest Speaker
Alicia Kerry Mica
Senior Lobbyist
American Pharmacists Association

Guest Speaker
Daniel Zlott, PharmD, BCOP
Vice President
Professional Education Resources
American Pharmacists Association

Subject Matter Expert: Q&A
Ilisa BG Bernstein, PharmD, JD, FAPhA
Senior Vice President, Pharmacy Practice
and Government Affairs
American Pharmacists Association

Subject Matter Expert: Q&A
Format for Today’s Webinar

1:00 pm: Introductions
1:05 pm: Provider Status Update with Alicia Kerry Mica
1:10 pm: Discussion with Roger Paganelli, RPh
1:30 pm: Open Forum: A Minute for Your Thoughts
1:55 pm: Wrap Up: Review of APhA’s Ongoing Activities and What’s Coming
Open Forum Ground Rules

• Use the **Questions** field on the GoToWebinar toolbar to submit comments and questions related to the topic discussion.

• Individuals whose submissions are selected will be asked by the moderator to state the comment or question for the audience. The line for the individual will be unmuted to read their comment or question.

• To maximize the number of questions/comments addressed, a **60-second time limit** will be in effect for everyone to state their question or comment.

• We will try to get to as many comments and questions as possible. We have created a new forum for COVID-19 discussions where further discussion post-webinar. Information on participating in this forum will be provided at the end of the open forum.
What’s the status of pharmacist provider status?
Non-pharmacy organizations urge Congress to support pharmacist provider status under Medicare Part B for COVID and flu testing and immunization.
Take Action Now!

It’s Game Time! Tell Congress Pharmacists Can Help Fight COVID-19 and Influenza!

- Your immediate participation will help spur conversation within Congress about the need for pharmacists’ provider status during the public health emergency.
- We need ALL of our representatives to advocate to Congressional leadership in both parties to ensure this receives the attention it – and our patients – deserve so it is included in the next legislative package!

To take action now, go to: https://actioncenter.pharmacist.com/campaign/coronavirus/
To learn about how you can call your representatives, contact Mary-Ryan Douglass at mrdouglass@aphanet.org
Discussion with Roger Paganelli

Discuss how pharmacists can mitigate the impact on patients and other pharmacy staff members in the event they test positive for COVID-19.
Polling Question

Have you or anyone on your pharmacy staff been diagnosed with COVID-19?

A. Yes
B. No
Open Forum Discussion: A Minute for Your Thoughts

Comments, Questions, Feedback
Review of APhA’s Ongoing Activities and What’s Coming
NEW EPISODES - APhA’s 15 on COVID-19 Series

• Dexamethasone Data in COVID-19 – Review the data to learn about the benefits and risks of dexamethasone in patients with COVID-19.

• mRNA Vaccines for COVID-19 – An overview of how mRNA vaccines work and a review of early data on whether mRNA vaccines are effective:

https://www.pharmacist.com/coronavirus/training
NEW RESOURCE – Pharmacy Models for COVID-19 Testing

A step-by-step overview of two emerging pharmacy COVID-19 testing models and the associated payment opportunities at this time. Pharmacists interested in providing COVID-19 testing should know the requirements and considerations to get started.

Check out additional practice resources here
Executive Order on Improving Rural Health and Telehealth Access

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. My Administration is committed to improving the health of all Americans by improving access to better care, including for the approximately 57 million Americans living in rural communities. Americans living in rural communities face unique challenges when seeking healthcare services, such as limited transportation opportunities, shortages of healthcare workers, and an
CMS will use existing evaluation and management (E/M) payment codes to reimburse “eligible providers” for COVID-19 counseling services *(pharmacists need an incident to arrangement with physicians)* no matter where a test is administered, including doctors’ offices, urgent care clinics, hospitals and community drive-thru or pharmacy testing sites.

- APhA continues advocacy efforts for a legislative solution to allow pharmacists to independently offer these services.
CMS issues CY2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule – Medication Management Services and Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)

- Restates pharmacist medication management services are covered under both Medicare Part B and Part D.
- Pharmacists are considered “auxiliary personnel” and can provide these services as well as remote patient monitoring (RPM) under the appropriate level of supervision under Part B if payment for the services is not made under the Medicare Part D benefit.
- Clinical services shall be in accordance with the pharmacist’s state scope of practice and applicable law.
- Does not alter current payment policy for pharmacist services furnished “incident to” the professional services of a physician - Still does not confirm that physicians can bill for utilizing pharmacists for more complex evaluation and management (E/M) services (99212-99215).
CMS issues CY2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule—Telehealth and Immunization Administration

- Restates pharmacists can enter into an “incident-to” physician services arrangement to provide evaluation and management (E/M) services to be provided via telehealth.
- CMS permits physician supervision to be provided virtually using real-time audio and video technology.
- CMS is re-instating increased immunization (vaccine) administration rates for providers (including pharmacists) to 2017 levels to gear up for the upcoming flu season and COVID-19 vaccine when available.
Post on **ENGAGE**

*Pharmacy’s Response to COVID-19*

**POST** your questions

**SHARE** your lessons learned

**SUPPORT** your colleagues

**ACCESS** the latest information

How have you mitigated the spread of COVID-19 at your practice?

Are you concerned about obtaining adequate supplies of PPE?
Join Us

Same Day, Same Time, Same Place

• Weekly webinar will be on Thursday, August 13th, from 1-2pm ET
• Today’s webinar recording and slides will be available within 24hrs

https://www.pharmacist.com/coronavirus/weekly-webinars