

Medical Association Update | January 15, 2021

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<u>NBC News reports</u> that monoclonal antibodies could potentially ease hospitalizations due to the Coronavirus.

Monoclonal antibodies are lab-made drugs meant to mimic natural antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. They're recommended for people who are at high risk of getting very sick from the virus, including anyone over age 65 and people with underlying health conditions.

At least one study showed that the therapy can lower the amount of virus in a person's system. "It's not exactly a miracle drug but it has a dramatic impact," says infectious disease expert Dr. Michael Saag.

You can learn more about monoclonal antibodies and other COVID-19 treatment options by watching our interview with Dr. Thrasher and Dr. Saag. Monoclonal antibodies are first mentioned around the 16:00 mark.

Watch the interview here

CMS Puts Patients Over Paperwork with New Rule that Addresses the Prior Authorization Process



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a signature accomplishment of the new Office of Burden Reduction & Health Informatics (OBRHI). This final rule builds on the efforts to drive interoperability, empower patients, and reduce costs and burden in the healthcare market by promoting secure electronic access to health data in new and innovative ways.

These significant changes include allowing certain payers, providers and patients to have electronic access to pending and active prior authorization decisions, which should result in fewer repeated requests for prior authorizations, reducing costs and onerous administrative burden to our frontline

providers. This final rule will result in providers having more time to focus on their patients and provide higher quality care.

Read the full alert from CMS here

New Round of PPP Loans: What You Need to Know



A new round of Paycheck Protection Program loans opened this week. The program is open to new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers.

For the first two days, the SBA accepted applications from community financial institutions for those making their first application for the loan program. Two days later, businesses that participated in last year's PPP loan program were able to apply for a "second draw."

Applications must be filed through a lender, but forms can be found online to assist you in your application process. Information on the loan, how to apply, and how to seek forgiveness may be found on the Small Business Association website.

Visit the SBA website

New COVID-19 Vaccine Sites



We have updated our COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Toolkit to reflect new information regarding vaccine sites and appointment times. Here are today's updates:

Pfizer Sites

<u>Moderna Sites - County Health Departments</u> *Please use the tabs at the bottom of this document to navigate to your county. <u>Moderna Sites - Urgent Care Centers</u> <u>Moderna Sites - Pharmacies</u>

Moderna Sites - Hospitals

Continue to read our email alerts (sent out twice weekly) for the most updated information on where and how to get your vaccine! Please be aware that as the number of vaccine sites increases, it may be more difficult for us to verify small details regarding location hours, phone numbers, etc. You can also find this information and much more in the toolkit, linked below.

Download the toolkit here

WHAT WE'RE READING

- Town Hall APA Addresses Structural Racism
- COVID-19 Emergency Expiration Date Extended to February 28, 2021
- <u>Why physician advocacy at all levels will be key in 2021</u>
- <u>CDC projects that 92,000 more Americans will die from COVID-19 over the next three</u>
 <u>weeks</u>
- Feds Plead for Greater Use of Monoclonal Antibodies to Fight COVID



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