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## **Administrative Bulletin 20-40**

### **101 CMR 317.00: Medicine**

**Effective May 9, 2020**

## **Establishment of Bundled Rate for Remote Patient Monitoring Services During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency**

### **Purpose, Scope, and Effective Period**

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is issuing this administrative bulletin pursuant to the authority of COVID-19 Order No. 20: *Order Authorizing the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to Adjust Essential Provider Rates During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency* and Executive Order 591: *Declaration of State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19*. In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to COVID-19, EOHHS, which administers the Massachusetts Medicaid program known as “MassHealth,” is establishing a bundled rate for remote patient monitoring services for individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, as further described below. If a rate or payment methodology is not being updated pursuant to this administrative bulletin, the rate or payment methodology remains as established.

This administrative bulletin is effective for dates of service on or after May 9, 2020, and shall remain effective for the duration of COVID-19 Order No. 20.

Disclaimer: This administrative bulletin is not authorization for a provider’s use of the new rate or service. Authorization for the provision of, and billing and payment for, remote patient monitoring for persons with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are pursuant to the MassHealth Community Health Center program regulations at 130 CMR 405.000: *Community Health Center Services*, the MassHealth Acute Outpatient Hospital program regulations at 130 CMR 410.000: *Outpatient Hospital Services*, the MassHealth Physician program regulations at 130 CMR 433.000: *Physician Services*, the Rate Year 2020 Acute Hospital Request for Applications and Contract (as amended), a forthcoming all-provider bulletin, and other applicable MassHealth provider regulations, contracts, and subregulatory guidance.



## Background

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, demand for emergency department and certain other hospital services has surged. To help reduce this demand on hospital services, while keeping vulnerable individuals safe in their homes or other residential settings, EOHHS is establishing a bundled rate for remote patient monitoring (RPM) services that will allow for the remote monitoring (using any appropriate technology or modality) of individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, either before or after hospitalization, who, in an appropriate clinical professional's judgment, are stable enough to isolate at home or another community-based setting, but require close monitoring for deterioration and need for a higher level of care. This bundled rate covers all medically necessary clinical COVID-19-related evaluation and management services required to facilitate seven continuous days of close, in-home, remote monitoring of members with confirmed or suspected COVID-19; daily multidisciplinary team reviews of member status and needs; appropriate physician oversight; necessary care coordination; as well as the provision of a thermometer and a pulse oximeter to the member (collectively, "COVID-19 RPM bundled services"). Providers rendering COVID-19 RPM bundled services must comply in all respects with a forthcoming all provider bulletin, and all other applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and subregulatory guidance.

### Rate for COVID-19 RPM Bundled Services

Effective for dates of service on or after May 9, 2020, eligible providers may bill for COVID-19 RPM bundled services at the following rate, using the procedure code and modifier combination set forth below:

Code	Description	Rate
99423 – U9	Online digital evaluation and management service, for an established patient, for up to 7 days, cumulative time during the 7 days; 21 or more minutes.  (Used for COVID-19 remote patient monitoring bundled services provided through any appropriate technology or modality, including up to 7 days of daily check-ins for evaluation and monitoring; multidisciplinary clinical team reviews of a member's status and needs; appropriate physician oversight; necessary care coordination; and provision of a thermometer and pulse oximeter for remote monitoring.)	\$870.72

### Public Comment

EOHHS will accept comments on the rate methodology established via this administrative bulletin through May 23, 2020. Individuals may submit written comments by emailing [ehs-regulations@state.ma.us](mailto:ehs-regulations@state.ma.us). Please submit written comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with the name of this administrative bulletin in the subject line. All submissions of comments must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or

affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by email may mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of this administrative bulletin taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.