



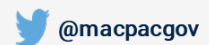
# Medicaid's Response to COVID-19

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**Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission**

Joanne Jee

September 24, 2020

[www.macpac.gov](http://www.macpac.gov)



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## Overview

- Recap on MACPAC work
- Anecdotes from states
  - Telehealth
  - Substance use disorder (SUD) treatment
  - Home and community-based services (HCBS)
- Nursing facility update
- Racial and ethnic disparities

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# Recap on MACPAC work

- April commission meeting
- Letters regarding the provider relief fund
- Letter regarding public health emergency (PHE)
- Catalog of Medicaid changes to state telehealth policies
- Webpage on Medicaid's response to COVID-19

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# Telehealth

- Rapid deployment; received favorably, especially telephonic telehealth and tele-behavioral health
- State support of continued use, for example:
  - NY enacted legislation for ongoing use of telephonic telehealth
  - OH developing rules for expanded telehealth use
- Considerations: equitable access, privacy, limitations of telehealth, beneficiary and provider acceptance, and data

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## Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- State and beneficiary support for increased use of telehealth in SUD and MOUD treatment
- Most states allowing OTP take-home doses
- Considerations: DEA rules on prescribing, telehealth, and OTP take-home doses; weigh the need for broader changes

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## Long-term Services and Supports

- Appendix K flexibilities for HCBS may be in effect for some time beyond the PHE
- Some interest in retaining flexibility on self-attestation for HCBS, and further flexibility on retainer payments
- Continued focus on nursing facility safety and quality

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# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Cases: 2.6 times higher for Black people, 2.8 time higher for Hispanic and American Indian or Alaska Native people compared to white people
- Hospitalizations: 4.6 times higher for Hispanic people, 4.7 times higher for Black people, and 5.3 times higher for American Indian or Alaska Native people compared to white people
- Dually eligible beneficiaries have more cases and hospitalizations compared to Medicare only enrollees
  - Among Black beneficiaries, 2,791 cases per 100,000 dually eligible compared to 1,030 cases per 100,000 Medicare only beneficiaries (January 1 – June 20)

Sources: CDC COVID-19 Hospitalization and Death by Race/Ethnicity (8/18/20); CMS Preliminary Medicare COVID-19 Data Snapshot (7/20/20).  
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