COVID-19 Pandemic

How ACP is supporting members and the internal medicine community during this public health crisis
Dear Colleagues,

Here is a slide set that details resources that ACP has available to help in keeping you up with the rapid information changes occurring in this pandemic. Please review and use as you need as you continue your important work.

I appreciate all that you are doing for patients who are looking to you now more than ever for your expertise.

Stay safe and strong.

Steven J. Gerstner, MD, FACP,
ACP Governor, Montana Chapter
Montana COVID-19 Statistics

The following information is as of Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

• Montana has 451 confirmed cases
• 15 total deaths
• 356 people have recovered from COVID-19
• 61 people have been hospitalized
• 10 people are currently hospitalized
• 13, 191 people have been tested

Governor Bullock Announced Directive on Phased Reopening of Montana and Establishing Conditions for Phase One on April 22nd.
Supporting Internal Medicine During COVID-19 Pandemic

• Created comprehensive COVID-19 Resource Hub: www.acponline.org/novel-coronavirus

• Development and real-time updating of clinical, practical tools and information

• Development of new ACP policies to address new situation and circumstances

• Vigorously advocating to address ACP member and patient needs

• Webinars: practical advice from front lines; implementing telehealth

• Podcasts

• Frequent publication of new Annals content

• Member discussion forum

• Weekly Update emails to ACP members
Getting the Word out to Members, Others

• Weekly Update emails to ACP members
• Video messages
• E-newsletters: ACP Internist, ACP Hospitalist, ACP Advocate
• Social Media
• Press releases
• ACP media interviews, news coverage
ACP in the News: COVID-19

- ACP has been mentioned 945 total, with an audience reach of 6.7 million.

- Top tier outlet mentions include:
  - The New York Times
  - The Wall Street Journal
  - The Washington Post
  - Bloomberg News
  - NPR
  - The Hill
  - POLITICO
  - CNN
COVID-19 Pandemic: Internal Medicine 2020

- Meeting cancellation communications to members, registered attendees, partners, exhibitors, vendors, and others
- FAQs and information posted to meeting website
- Refunds offered to everyone
- CME 30 Package offered in lieu of refund
- Rescheduled governance meetings

Online, mobile-friendly clinical overview of infection control and patient management guidance that is updated frequently and continuously.
COVID-19 Practice Management Resources

• New resources to support members and their practices, including:

  • Coding and Billing for both Telehealth and Telephone Calls—guidelines for using CPT and ICD10 codes, modifiers, allowed technologies, testing, and more

  • Payer Policies—information about payer and state-specific policy updates and flexibilities related to phone calls, testing, cost sharing, prescriptions, and enrollment

  • Practice Financial & Management Issues—tips for accessing financial assistance, managing personnel shortages, and other issues
Telehealth & Telemedicine Resources

- Online interactive CME program to help physicians implement telemedicine. Includes information about patient care during pandemics and public health crises.

- Resources for telehealth coding and billing during COVID-19

- Information on telehealth coverage rules, technology options for telehealth, and more
Podcasts

- ACP and *Annals* Podcasts; Podcasts from the Infectious Diseases Society of America
New Clinical Policy: Living Practice Points on COVID-19

• Rapid ("lightning") development – 14 days from start of evidence review to journal submission

• **Concise** overview of evidence and implications for practice

• Maintained as **living** document – will monitor and assess new evidence every 1-2 weeks and update Practice Points as needed

**Question/Background:** Ask a targeted question

**Practice Points:** Key take-ways to advise clinicians on what to do, based on the current evidence, and to highlight evidence gaps

**Evidence Description:** Graphic summary to describe current evidence base. E.g., How many studies? What types of studies? # of patients?

**Evidence Summary:** Bulleted synthesis of current evidence on benefits, harms, evidence gaps, and clinical considerations?

**2 questions currently underway**

• Developed by Scientific Medical Policy Committee and based on rapid external systematic review

• Should Clinicians Use Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine Alone or In Combination with Azithromycin for the Prophylaxis or Treatment of COVID-19? *(under review at Annals)*

• What is the effectiveness of respirators vs. facemasks vs. cloth masks for prevention of COVID-19 in healthcare and community settings? *(systematic review in progress)*
COVID-19 Content collection in *Annals of Internal Medicine*

*Annals* is publishing a growing collection of research articles, commentaries, essays, podcasts, and graphic narratives related to COVID-19 is freely available to the public at the *Annals of Internal Medicine* website, [www.annals.org](http://www.annals.org).
New ACP Policies Developed in response to COVID-19

• Prioritization, Allocation of Resources and Stewardship Must Not Result in Discrimination

• Harassment Based on Race or Ethnic Origin is Never Okay

• Physicians Can Bring their Own PPE and Speak Out on COVID-19 Care Conditions

• Social Distancing Recommendations to Help slow spread of COVID-19

• Nonurgent In-person Medical Care – Transition In-office visits to Virtual Care
ACP COVID-19 Related Advocacy and Regulatory Activity

Vigorously advocating on federal, state and local levels for:

• Adequate supply and distribution of PPE
• Direct support and appropriate regulatory relief for members and their practices
• Payment for telehealth and telephone only call to be on par with in person visits
• Funding to help practices experiencing financial hardship, emergency grant programs
• Coverage and access for testing and treatment
• Suspension of elective procedures, prior authorization
• Collaborating with medical associations on provisions in CARES act
• Recommendations on stimulus legislation
• Enactment of Defense Production Act
• Opening of health insurance enrollment
• Expansion of Medicare, Medicaid
• Loan forgiveness for medical students and residents
Webinars and Member Discussion Forum

• Webinars on Telemedicine, Practical Advice and Support for Internists
• COVID-19 Member Forum to Discuss COVID-10 with ACP Members