COVID-19 Pandemic

How ACP is supporting members and the internal medicine community during this public health crisis
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 ICD-10 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question/Background:</th>
<th>Ask a targeted question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practice Points:</td>
<td>Key take-ways to advise clinicians on what to do, based on the current evidence, and to highlight evidence gaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Description:</td>
<td>Graphic summary to describe current evidence base. E.g., How many studies? What types of studies? # of patients?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Summary:</td>
<td>Bulleted synthesis of current evidence on benefits, harms, evidence gaps, and clinical considerations?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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