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Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Physician Notes: HHS Renewed the PHE for a 5th Time

On April 15, HHS Secretary **Xavier Becerra** extended the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and its associated waivers and flexibilities for another 90 days, effective April 21, 2021. It is the PHE's fifth renewal, coming after former HHS Secretary **Alex Azar's** original Jan. 31, 2020 declaration and his renewals on April 21, 2020, July 23, 2020, Oct. 2, 2020, and, most recently, Jan. 7, 2021, the declaration reminds.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated its COVID-19 blanket waivers on April 9. Date changes are in bold red while terminated policies are crossed out and also dated in red with an end date.

See the update at www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf.

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