

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Physician Notes: COVID PHE Gets Extended ... Again

As the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) remains in full force, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has opted to extend it further.

Effective July 20, HHS Secretary **Xavier Becerra** renewed the PHE again. This renewal will last 90 days - but HHS has previously indicated it will keep the PHE going at least through the end of this year.



This is the sixth time that HHS has extended the PHE; former HHS Secretary **Alex Azar** originally declared the PHE on Jan. 31, 2020 and renewed it on April 21, 2020; July 23, 2020; Oct. 2, 2020; and Jan. 7, 2021. Most recently, Becerra renewed the PHE on April 15, notes PHE guidance.

Review the extension details at www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/COVID-19July2021.aspx.