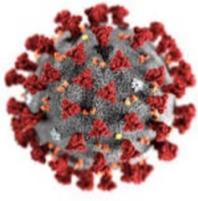


## News Flash

### Complimentary Webinar: 'COVID-19 Preparedness for Nuclear Cardiology Labs: Insights from the U.S., China, & Singapore'



ASNC and the **Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine (CSNM)** are bringing together global leaders from the United States, China, and Singapore for a complimentary webinar highlighting strategies for mitigating risk of COVID-19 exposure in nuclear cardiology practice.

The discussion will be held **Tuesday, March 24, at 8:00 PM (US EDT)** and will include:

- The **patient's journey through the imaging lab**, including changes and prioritizing orders, patient and staff precautions, equipment considerations, changes to the interpretation and reporting experience in the reading room, and more;
- New imaging and test preparation considerations for **protecting technologists** as they interact with patients;
- **Insights Wuhan and Shanghai**, shared by CSNM members based those cities;
- **Successful lessons learned from Singapore**;
- **Methods to protect nuclear cardiology personnel** from potential COVID-19 exposure; and
- Opportunities to **share your experience and ask questions**.

Moderated by **Brigham & Women's Hicham Skali, MD**, the webinar will feature **ASNC President Sharmila Dorbala, CSNM President SiJin Li, MD, PhD**, and these panelists:

From the U.S: **Stephen Bloom, MD, FASNC, Regina Druz, MD, FASNC, and Jolene Fantony, RT(N), CNMT**

From China: **Hongcheng Shi, MD, PhD (Shanghai), and Xiaoli Lan, MD, PhD (Wuhan)**

From Singapore: **Felix Keng, MBBS, FASNC, and Aaron Tong, MBBS**

**REGISTER NOW**

ASNC thanks **GE Healthcare** for supporting this activity.

## COVID-19 NEWS & RESOURCES

**CMS Eases QPP Reporting Requirements.** In response to the COVID-19 crisis, CMS is extending the MIPS submission deadline of 2019 performance data from March 31, 2020, to April 30, 2020. Clinicians who don't submit data by the new deadline will be qualified for the "automatic extreme and uncontrollable circumstances policy" and will receive a neutral payment adjustment for the 2021 MIPS payment year. [Read CMS's press release.](#)

**AMA Announces New CPT Code for Lab Tests to Diagnose COVID-19.** Effective immediately, the new Category I CPT code and descriptor is 87635 – Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique. [Details here.](#)

**CMS Recommends Limiting Nonessential Adult Elective Procedures and Surgeries.** CMS says decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis and should consider factors such as current and projected COVID-19 cases, supply of personal protective equipment, bed and ventilator availability, patients' health, and urgency of the procedure. [Review CMS's recommended tiered framework to guide decision-making.](#)

**CMS Relaxes Requirements for Medicare's Telehealth Billing.** Clinicians now may bill for telehealth visits for dates of service starting March 6, 2020. These telehealth visits will be reimbursed under the Physician Fee Schedule in the same amount as for in-person visits. For details, see CMS's [Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet](#) and [FAQ](#).



### [Start Your Virtual Visits in 60 Minutes or Less](#)

Early telemedicine adopter **Regina Druz, MD, FASNC**, shares wisdom for physicians aiming to jump-start their practice's telemedicine offerings.

**No Significant Disruptions to Mo-99 Transport.** Initial concerns about the possible impact of travel bans on Mo-99 delivery have been successfully addressed and there have been no "significant transport-related disruptions for bulk Mo-99, nor for road transport of Mo-99 irradiated targets across Europe," according to [Nuclear Medicine Europe](#). ASNC will continue monitoring.

**COVID-19 Resource Center**

## ASNC UPDATES

**ASNC2020 Abstract Submission Deadline Extended.** The ASNC2020 Program Committee will accept original basic science and clinical research abstracts for consideration **through April 24**. [Review the eligibility criteria, access guidance for developing a competitive abstract, and submit your abstract.](#)

**April Webinars Cancelled for Now.** ASNC will reschedule "Cases in Tc-99m PYP Evaluation of ATTR Cardiac Amyloidosis: Interpretation and Reporting" and "Cardiac PET: Step-by-Step Interpretation of Myocardial Perfusion Studies—Different Techniques & Interpretation" after the COVID-19 crisis resolves.

**Early-Career Research Awards Deadlines Extended.** The new deadline for both the [IANC Research Fellowship Award](#) and the [ASNC/Pfizer Young Investigator in Cardiac Amyloidosis Research Fellowship Award](#) is **June 19, 2020**.

**ASNC News**

## Nuclear Cardiology News

**How to Use the New Absolute Quantitation of Myocardial Blood Flow Code.** After years of work by ASNC, a new category I code for the Absolute Quantitation of Myocardial Blood Flow (AQMBF) went into effect Jan. 1, 2020. [Share these tips with your coders.](#)

The ASNC team is continuing to work for you. Be safe. Be well.

**Latest Updates**

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