State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

Volume 31 No. 08 **March 2021**

TO: Providers of Pharmaceutical Services **– For Action**
Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), Independent Clinics, Independent Laboratories, Health Maintenance Organizations **– For Information Only**

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Testing Provided by a Pharmacy Enrolled as an Independent Laboratory**

EFFECTIVE: COVID-19 testing claims with service dates on or after July 1, 2020

PURPOSE: To notify pharmacies of Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare coverage of specimen collection and diagnostic testing performed by pharmacies when testing is necessary to determine if an individual has an active coronavirus infection.

Based on State and Federal authorizations, Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare shall reimburse pharmacies enrolled as independent laboratory providers for point of care (POC) COVID-19 specimen collection or for the administration of diagnostic tests that have been approved by the FDA or authorized by an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) (Specimen collection is included in the reimbursement for diagnostic tests and may not be billed separately).

BACKGROUND: Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare recognizes the essential role that pharmacists have played in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for your leadership on the front lines and for your commitment to serving New Jerseyans the best way possible. Pharmacies are also recognized for their important role in providing broader access to specimen collection and diagnostic testing services that are critical for the State to effectively manage the coronavirus moving forward.

Currently there are two types of diagnostic tests: molecular tests (PCR, aka polymerase chain reaction) that detect the virus's genetic material, and antigen (rapid) tests that detect specific proteins from the virus. **Specimen collection and certain molecular COVID-19 tests are authorized by the Department of Health (DOH) Standing Order 2020-01 and a prescription is not required.**

The Standing Order is available at: https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/05-12-2020_StandingOrder_COVID19testing.pdf

An FAQ explaining the operation of the Standing Order is available at: https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/FAQ_StandingOrder_COVID19testing.pdf

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has authorized pharmacies to participate in COVID-19 testing pursuant to DCA Administrative Order No. 2020-06 and Waiver No. W-2020-10, which shall remain in effect until the end of the Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order No. 103. The DCA Order and Waiver are available for review at:
https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/COVID19/Documents/DCA-AO-2020-06_DCA-W-2020-10.pdf

Testing shall also be consistent with any Executive Directive, guidance, or other direction issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Health, which is available at: https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/

ACTION: **Effective for claims with service dates on or after July 1, 2020,** pharmacies may receive reimbursement for specimen collection only or diagnostic testing when enrolled as an independent laboratory (specimen collection is part of the diagnostic testing service).

Provider Enrollment

- Pharmacies intending to perform COVID-19 specimen collection or diagnostic testing are required to enroll in the Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare Program as a provider of independent laboratory services.
  - For pharmacies providing diagnostic testing, a CLIA Approval and Identification Number is also required. This is not required for pharmacies that are only performing specimen collection.
  - Application fees are temporarily suspended due to the Public Health Emergency.

- Pharmacies requesting temporary enrollment as a laboratory provider during the State of Emergency may do so by using the consolidated application described below.
  - The application is for enrollment with both the Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare fee-for-service network and the five managed care organizations. For FFS-only enrollment, use the standard application at: www.njmmis.com
  - The application may not be used by hospital pharmacies; these pharmacies must use the standard application at: www.njmmis.com

- For eligible pharmacies, the consolidated Independent Laboratory Provider Application PDF (**"Pharmacy/Laboratory Applicants Only"**) must be submitted to the Gainwell Technologies Provider Enrollment Unit by email (njmmisproviderenrollment@dxc.com) or fax (609-584-1192).
  - The Application, Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions may be downloaded from the NJMMIS "Announcement" page at https://www.njmmis.com/announcements.aspx
  - For pharmacies providing diagnostic testing, please submit a copy of your CLIA Approval and Identification Number with the application.

- Copies of original signatures or electronic signatures on provider applications will be accepted during the State of Emergency, provided the applicant maintains a record of the original signatures that can be provided upon request.

- Pharmacies and other suppliers currently enrolled in Medicare also are required to enroll temporarily as independent clinical diagnostic laboratories during the COVID-19 public health emergency via the provider enrollment hotline. Pharmacies and other suppliers who are not currently enrolled in Medicare and want to enroll as an Independent Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory, must submit a CMS-855B enrollment application to the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) serving your geographic area. To locate your designated MAC, see https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Contracting/Medicare-Administrative-Contractors/Who-are-the-MACs

Billing Procedures

- **Pharmacies may only bill for Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare non-dual eligible beneficiaries, meaning beneficiaries without Medicare coverage. Dual eligible beneficiaries may access diagnostic testing services directly through Medicare and Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare shall not be billed for these services.**

The following HCPCS Procedure Codes may be billed for COVID-19 collection/diagnostic testing services:

HCPCS Procedure Code	Description	Maximum Fee Allowance
G2023	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source	$23.46
U0002	Non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets)	$51.31
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	$51.31
For information regarding diagnostic tests granted FDA Emergency Use Authorization, please visit https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization		

- Claims may be submitted as an 837P electronic laboratory claim; as a Direct Data Entry (DDE) claim via the www.njmmis.com website portal; or as a paper claim using the 1500 claim form.

- Information for completing an 837P electronic laboratory claim may be found at www.njmmis.com under "Forms and Documents"; select "Provider"; then select "HIPAA"; then select "837/835/277P HIPAA Companion Guide (Version 5010)."

- Information for completing a DDE or paper claim may be found at www.njmmis.com under "Billing Supplements/Training Packets"; select "Independent Laboratory".

- The National Provider Identifier (NPI) reported by a pharmacy as their Billing Provider NPI and Servicing Provider NPI on a pharmacy claim shall be the same as the Billing Provider NPI and Servicing Provider NPI reported by a pharmacy on their laboratory claims.

- If the NPI for the Referring Provider Identifier to be reported on 837P electronic claims or the Referring Provider on DDE and Paper claims is not known to the pharmacy, the pharmacy should report their Billing Provider NPI as the Referring Provider Identifier on 837P electronic claims. If the NPI of the Referring provider is known, the pharmacy should report the NPI of the Referring Provider as the Referring Provider Identifier.

- For DDE and Paper claims, the pharmacy must report their pharmacy Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare Billing Provider Number and their Billing Provider NPI.

- For 837P electronic claims, the pharmacy NPI and laboratory taxonomy code "291U00000X" must be reported.

- The value reported on laboratory claims for the "Place of Service" is "06".

- The possible ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes reported for COVID-19 diagnostic services include:
  - Z11.59: asymptomatic, no known exposure, results unknown or negative;
  - Z03.818: possible exposure to COVID-19, ruled out; or
  - Z20.828: contact with COVID-19, Suspected exposure.

Payment Limitations

- Both a collection procedure code (G2023) and a diagnostic testing procedure code (U0002 or 87635) may not be billed by a provider for the same beneficiary on the same date of service. Reimbursement for the diagnostic testing codes includes the cost of specimen collection.

- Only one specimen collection code or diagnostic testing procedure code for COVID-19 may be billed by a provider for the same beneficiary on the same date of service.

- Only COVID-19 specimen collection and COVID-19 diagnostic testing services are eligible for payment to a pharmacy enrolled as a laboratory.

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please contact the Gainwell Technologies Provider Services Unit at 1-800-776-6334.

RETAIN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE