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COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers

- [Guidance](#) is also available in Portable Document Format (PDF)

New York State (NYS) Medicaid Pharmacy Policy and Billing Guidance for At Home COVID-19 Testing Coverage

Updated July 12, 2023
Updates are highlighted

Effective December 13, 2021, NYS Medicaid will cover over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 diagnostic and screening tests that provide "at-home" results for reimbursement with no member cost sharing. **Effective January 10, 2022**, a fiscal order is not required for the first 8 tests per month. Additional tests may be covered with a fiscal order, when medically necessary. Coverage will be provided for OTC FDA-authorized COVID-19 test kits that are used in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for antigen detection. This policy for coverage of at-home test kits via NYRx, the NYS Medicaid Pharmacy Program, will remain in effect until further notice.

NYS Medicaid Policy for Coverage:

- Covered OTC test kits must be authorized by the FDA for use in both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients and allow for self-collection without medical observation.

- Two (2) OTC tests per claim, with no refills (a test kit may contain two tests and is considered two OTC tests).

- Up to eight (8) OTC tests per month can be requested by a member at the pharmacy, without a fiscal order. **Pharmacies dispensing OTC tests must retain documentation that includes:**
  - Member consent, and
  - Modality of request (in pharmacy or by phone), and
  - Date and time of the request

- If medically necessary, additional OTC tests will be covered with a fiscal order by a Medicaid-enrolled practitioner (which includes all the same information contained on a prescription). Refills will not be allowed.

- Quantities greater than 8 tests per month will require verification that the fiscal order was obtained. Pharmacies may provide verification by calling the Magellan Clinical Call center at, 1-800-343-9000. The call center staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

NYRx Pharmacy Billing for COVID-19 Test Kits:

Pharmacies may bill using the National Drug Codes (NDCs), which have been derived by using the Universal Product Code (UPC). For a list of tests that are covered, providers can perform a search using the eMedNY formulary search page. Select "Description" in the dropdown field and type in "COVID" to return all tests on the formulary.

Table 1 - Billing Instructions for COVID Tests

NCPDP D.0. Claim Segment Field*	Value
436-E1 (Product/Service ID Qualifier)	Enter a value of "03" (NDC)
407-D7 (Product/Service ID)	Enter the applicable NDC for the test
444-E9 (Pharmacist ID)	Enter Prescriber National Provider Identifier (NPI) number
411-DB (Prescriber ID)	Enter the Pharmacy's NPI, or Prescriber's NPI for fiscal orders

* The NCPDP D.0 Companion Guide can be found on the eMedNY 5010/D.0 Transaction Instructions web page. Please see the *Serial Number and Origin Code Requirement* section in the NYRx Pharmacy Manual Policy Guidelines document for further guidance on origin code and serial number values that must be submitted on the claim. In the origin code field use "5" and the corresponding serial number of "99999999" for "Pharmacy dispensing" when applicable for non-patient specific orders.

Table 2 - OTC COVID-19 Tests Reimbursement

Reimbursement*	Tests** per kit
Up to $24	2
Up to $12	1

*Reimbursement for each test will be the lower of the maximum reimbursement amount or the Usual and Customary (U&C) price charged to the general public. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 447.512(b), pharmacies must provide a (U&C) price when submitting pharmacy claims for prescription and OTC (nonprescription) items. U&C is defined as the lowest price charged to the general public after all applicable discounts, including promotional discounts and discounted prices associated with loyalty programs.

**As more test kits become available the formulary will be updated here. For further information regarding COVID -19 tests access the following: FDA Emergency Use Authorizations for Medical Devices.

Reminder:

- **It is inappropriate practice to engage new or existing patients for the sole purpose of dispensing COVID-19 OTC tests without cause.**

- **The Medicaid program is the payer of last resort and providers should take reasonable measures necessary to ensure that all available options for coverage,**

including free at-home COVID tests from <mark>any other entity or</mark> third-party insurance, are utilized prior to submitting claims to the Medicaid program.

- **<mark>All unsubstantiated claims are subject to audit and recovery.</mark>**

Additional Information

- For Medicaid billing questions, please contact the eMedNY Call Center at (800) 343-9000.

- For Medicaid Pharmacy Policy questions, please contact <mark>NYRx@health.ny.gov.</mark>

- Information on fiscal orders and reimbursement can be found in the <mark>NYRx Medicaid Pharmacy Manual.</mark>

- Information regarding COVID-19 testing at pharmacies can be found here: Medicaid FFS Policy and Billing Guidance for COVID-19 Testing and Specimen Collection at Pharmacies.