



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAID ADVANCES ACCESS TO STATEWIDE COVID-19 TESTING

Sets up mechanisms to reimburse pharmacies for testing

Beginning today, Ohio pharmacies serving Medicaid beneficiaries can submit COVID-19 diagnostic testing claims for reimbursement by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM).

Pharmacies serving both Medicaid fee-for-service waiver recipients and managed care plan members will be reimbursed for collection or swabbing for COVID-19 testing at a rate of \$23.46.

Enabling pharmacies to be reimbursed for COVID testing is just one of several initiatives Ohio Medicaid has implemented since the start of the pandemic. The agency's goal has been to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries have continued access to health care services while following preventative measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. ODM's emergency pharmacy provisions include:

- Enabling Medicaid members to shop any pharmacy, regardless of provider network status, without jeopardizing pharmacy reimbursements,
- Waiving member co-pays regardless of a medication's relation to COVID-19,
- Authorizing reimbursement to pharmacists who dispense emergency refills without prescription,
- Relaxing medication refill thresholds on certain prescriptions, and
- Sanctioning 90-day supplies on maintenance medications.

ODM is releasing billing guidance to pharmacies to assist them in accurately submitting COVID-19 testing claims.

ODM's Fee-for-Service (FFS) Pharmacy Point of Sale Vendor Change Healthcare will process all COVID testing claims for Medicaid waiver participants*. Pharmacies serving Medicaid managed care members will bill through each plan's Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) systems. Pharmacies also are encouraged to contact each managed care plan to verify correct use of billing codes and claims processing.

Medicaid recipients should contact their local pharmacy to confirm participation in this program and schedule testing.

**COVID-19 testing performed on behalf of MyCare waiver beneficiaries is covered by Medicare.*