



**To:** Ohio Medicaid Pharmacies  
**From:** Maureen M. Corcoran, Director  
**Re:** Testing for COVID-19 by Ohio Medicaid Pharmacies  
**Released:** June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
**Effective:** June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*NOTE: Please ensure appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this guidance document.*

The DeWine Administration took swift and early action to slow the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve. The Department of Medicaid, in support of these efforts, took several steps to ensure that the nearly 3 million people we serve would continue to have access to quality healthcare.

As we move into this next phase of combating the pandemic, adequate testing will be of the utmost importance and pharmacies will be vital as we work collectively to meet the challenge. **Therefore, beginning today, pharmacies will be reimbursed by Ohio Medicaid for COVID diagnostic testing specimen collection administered to Medicaid recipients.** Pharmacies will be permitted to utilize a credentialed identifier to submit the claim.

## Background

ODM applied for an emergency waiver, amended its managed care contracts, and adopted emergency telehealth rules in the past 6 months, in direct response to COVID-19. All these changes were made to maintain access to crucial medical services without putting patients and providers at unnecessary risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19. Among these provisions, the DeWine administration increased the flexibility of Ohio's pharmacies in the following ways:

- Relaxing prior authorizations
- Ensuring patient access to pharmacy services at out-of-network pharmacies
- Relaxing refill requirements and dosing limits
- Prohibiting patient cost-sharing for prescription medication

Most recently, as we continue to increase our testing capabilities in Ohio, Governor DeWine approached the Ohio Pharmacy Board to grant pharmacists authority to conduct COVID-19 diagnostic testing.

*As frontline health care providers, pharmacies are critical in our state's response to this pandemic. I have asked the Ohio Board of Pharmacy to make sure that Ohio pharmacies have what they need to test for COVID-19.*

Governor Mike DeWine  
May 28, 2020

## Performance of COVID-19 Testing by Pharmacists

This memo serves as notice of ODM's intent to reimburse pharmacies for a licensed pharmacist to: (1) order COVID-19 diagnostic tests for individuals served by Ohio Medicaid; and (2) collect or supervise the collection of specimens for the purpose of COVID-19 diagnostic testing. Pharmacies are responsible for ensuring that the testing complies with all state and federal laws, regulations and guidance around testing activity (e.g. CLIA certification/waiver, ODH testing guidance, etc.)

Pharmacies may bill for specimen collection for COVID-19 diagnostic testing using the following NDCs:

- 11877001126 (ID NOW COVID-19 rapid point-of-care test)
- 99999500004\* (Specimen collection supplies not assigned an NDC number)

ODM's Fee-for-Service Pharmacy Point of Sale Vendor, Change Healthcare, has programmed these new codes and reimbursement into the system for billing. Please see the ODM website ([www.medicaid.ohio.gov](http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov)) for payer specific information with instructions on how to submit a claim. Pharmacies can bill for dates of service starting June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The fee-for-service reimbursement rate for specimen collection is \$23.46.

Ohio Medicaid Managed Care Plans must also allow pharmacies to bill through their Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) systems and must reimburse pharmacies at this same rate. Pharmacies should confirm they are using the correct billing codes with each MCP. All the managed care plans have made similar system updates and are ready to reimburse pharmacies for COVID-19 diagnostic testing using a process similar to the one in place by ODM and Change Healthcare.

\*this NDC is a local code specific to Change Healthcare for billing specimen collection supplies that are provided to pharmacies without an NDC; pharmacies should verify the use of this NDC with each payer