

## Reminder and clarification about COVID-19 testing and diagnosis codes

Here's a reminder and clarification on which diagnosis codes to use for COVID-19 testing for commercial members:

- **Blue Cross and BCN continue to cover COVID-19 testing that is considered medically necessary by an attending health care provider.** For commercial members, when an attending health care provider administers or refers a patient for COVID-19 testing, Blue Cross and BCN assume the health care provider has determined the test to be medically necessary, unless it's coded with a noncovered diagnosis code (see below). Medical necessity is possible regardless of whether the patient is experiencing symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19.
  - For medically necessary testing (includes symptomatic testing and testing due to contact with and [suspected] exposure to COVID-19): Use Z20.822 as the primary diagnosis for dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2021. (Use Z20.828 for dates of service on or before Dec. 31, 2020.)
  - For pre-operative COVID-19 testing: Use Z01.810, Z01.811, Z01.812 or Z01.818.
- **Blue Cross and BCN don't cover COVID-19 administrative tests that aren't medically necessary.** Examples include tests that are required by an employer, school or sports team or that occur as part of a research study. Use Z11.52 or Z11.59 for coding these tests. These diagnosis codes aren't payable for commercial members.

For our Medicare Advantage plans (Medicare Plus Blue<sup>SM</sup> and BCN Advantage<sup>SM</sup>), continue to follow CMS guidelines.

For more information, see the *COVID-19 patient testing recommendations for physicians* document on our public website at [bcbsm.com/coronavirus](https://bcbsm.com/coronavirus) or within Provider Secured Services by clicking on *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*.