

Blue Cross and BCN clarify guidelines for pre-operative COVID-19 testing

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network support the safety of our members and our health care providers. We are offering guidance for pre-operative COVID-19 testing.

Procedures conducted in hospital operating rooms and ambulatory surgical facilities are appropriate for pre-operative COVID-19 testing. In addition, aerosol-generating procedures regardless of the location performed, such as oral surgery in the office setting, are appropriate for pre-operative COVID-19 testing.

Examples where COVID-19 testing would not be appropriate include a simple wound closure, skin biopsy, or routine medical or dental care in an office setting.

When performed, pre-operative COVID-19 testing should support the patient's access to needed medical care and should not become a barrier to receiving care.

The codes for pre-operative testing include:

- Z01.810 – Encounter for preprocedural cardiovascular examination
- Z01.811 – Encounter for preprocedural respiratory examination
- Z01.812 – Encounter for preprocedural laboratory examination
- Z01.818 – Encounter for other preprocedural examination

This pre-op testing guidance is specific to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, see the *Patient testing* section of our COVID-19 webpages on our public website at bcbsm.com/coronavirus or within Provider Secured Services by clicking on *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*.