

Clarification and reminders about COVID-19 testing

As a result of [FAQs issued Feb. 26, 2021](#)* on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, known as FFCRA, and the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act, known as the CARES Act, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are clarifying information we published in alerts dated July 16, 2020 and Nov. 19, 2020.

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. Medical necessity is possible regardless of whether the patient is experiencing symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19.

Patients with Medicare Plus BlueSM or BCN AdvantageSM coverage are allowed one COVID-19 test without an order from a physician or other practitioner in accordance with CMS policy. All subsequent tests require an order from a health care provider.

As a reminder, Blue Cross and BCN do **not** cover COVID-19 testing that is required by an employer or school or occurs as part of a research study.

Billing reminders

For our Blue Cross and BCN commercial plans, Z11.59 should **not** be used with COVID-19 testing, regardless of the reason for the test.

- Use Z20.822 as the primary diagnosis for dates of service Jan. 1, 2021, and after (Z20.828 for dates of service on or before Dec. 31, 2020)
- Use Z01.810, Z01.811, Z01.812 or Z01.818 for pre-operative COVID-19 testing

For our Medicare Advantage plans (Medicare Plus BlueSM and BCN AdvantageSM) follow CMS guidelines.

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

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