



COVID-19 Virus Related FAQs (April 7 Update)

In an ongoing effort to keep you informed about the latest COVID-19 related policy updates and other changes from The Department of Human Services (DHS), Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids are releasing the updates below for providers. **These changes will remain in effect until June 15, 2020 or while a valid disaster declaration by Governor Wolf related to the COVID-19 virus remains in effect, whichever is earlier.**

Coverage for COVID-19 related services

Is testing for COVID-19 covered?

Yes.

Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids are paying for laboratory tests to screen for COVID-19 effective immediately. There are no copayments for laboratory tests for COVID-19 and prior authorization is not required.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed two new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for providers and laboratories to use when testing for COVID-19. Procedure code U0001 is only to be used when billing for the tests developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Procedure code U0002 is to be used to bill for non-CDC laboratory tests for COVID-19.

Is COVID-19 related treatment covered?

Yes. Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids covers testing, screening and office visits to diagnose or treat COVID-19.

Will members have co-pays for COVID-19 related services?

No.

CHIP members are not to be charged their standard copayments for testing, screening or office visits related to COVID-19.

Medicaid members do not have copays for these services.

Does a CT scan of the Chest require prior authorization when related to COVID-19?

A provider who is billing for the CT scan of the chest should add a modifier of **CR** to the procedure codes on the claim. The addition of the modifier will allow the claim to bypass the prior authorization requirements.

A **CR** modifier can be added to the following procedure codes for CT scan of the chest when a patient has tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected to have COVID-19:

- 71250- Computed tomography, thorax; without contrast material
- 71260- Computed tomography, thorax; with contrast material(s)
- 71270- Computed tomography, thorax; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections

For questions regarding the CT Scans please call our Provider Services at 1-866-638-1232.

Telemedicine Guidelines

Are Telemedicine services covered?

Yes. Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids cover Telemedicine services for any reason during the Governor's COVID-19 disaster declaration.

Which Telemedicine communication methods are allowed?

Telemedicine services may be provided by any means that allows for two-way, real-time interactive communication, such as through audio-video conferencing hosted by a secure mobile application. (see the *Enforcement Discretion for telehealth remote communications COVID-19* below)

During this disaster declaration in effect in PA, telephone only services may be utilized in situations where video technology is not available. Please note that services rendered for the purposes of diagnosing or treating COVID-19 should be coded using the appropriate [ICD-10 codes identified by the CDC](#).

Billing for Telemedicine Services

Are there any special coding requirements for Telemedicine claims?

- Yes. The service must be rendered in conformance with the full description of the procedure code and to the extent that it would have been rendered if the visit had occurred in-person at an enrolled site.
- Providers should bill for the service as if they were provided face-to-face and in accordance with the MA [fee schedule](#). Services rendered through telemedicine will be paid at the same rate as if they were rendered in-person at an enrolled location

- Please submit all claims using the applicable CPT code with the GT Modifier (UB-04 & CMS 1500).

Pharmacy

Are there any special pharmacy changes?

- Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids are offering 90-day maintenance medication prescriptions for our members.
- Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids are also waiving early refill limits on 30-day prescription maintenance medications for all members with pharmacy benefits administered through CVS Caremark.
- Beginning immediately, CVS Pharmacy will waive charges for home delivery of prescription medications for Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids members. With the CDC encouraging people at higher risk for COVID-19 complications to stay at home as much as possible, this is a convenient option to avoid coming to the pharmacy for refills or new prescriptions.

Additional COVID-19 CMS/DHS/CDC guidance & resources

Please see the links below for guidance on COVID- 19.

COVID-19: New ICD-10-CM Code and Interim Coding Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics will implement a new ICD-10-CM diagnosis code for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), effective with the next update on October 1.

https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2020-02-27#_Toc33530673

Interim coding guidance that is specific to the Covid-19 virus

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/ICD-10-CM-Official-Coding-Gudance-Interim-Advice-coronavirus-feb-20-2020.pdf>

DHS Provider Coronavirus Resources

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-Provider-Resources.aspx>

Telemedicine Guidelines Related to COVID-19

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Documents/Coronavirus%202020/OPS%20Memo%2003-2020-003.pdf>

DHS COVID-19 Quick Tips

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Quick-Tips/Pages/default.aspx>

Enforcement Discretion for telehealth remote communications COVID-19

The Notification of Enforcement Discretion on telehealth remote communications may be found at: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/index.html>.

For more information on HIPAA and COVID-19, see OCR's February 2020 Bulletin: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/february-2020-hipaa-and-novel-coronavirus.pdf>

Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids COVID-19 Updates

<https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/pennsylvania/providers/covid-19>

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 related services or coding, just call your Provider Relations Rep or Provider Services at 1-866-638-1232.