




DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

To: Medicaid Pharmacies and Laboratories

From: Robert R. Neall, Secretary 

Re: COVID-19 #18: Testing for COVID-19 by Medicaid Pharmacies

Release Date: May 28, 2020

Effective Date: May 28, 2020

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

Background

On March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of emergency due to disease (“COVID-19”) caused by the novel coronavirus. The COVID-19 outbreak was declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, and was previously declared a nationwide public health emergency on January 31, 2020 (retroactive to January 27, 2020).

An outbreak of disease due to COVID-19 first occurred in the Hubei Province, China, in late 2019, and has currently been detected in more than 109 countries, including the United States. COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease, resulting in illness or death, caused by person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus.

The measures outlined in this document are restricted to use during the state of emergency declared by Governor Hogan to deal with the threat of COVID-19 and will expire immediately upon termination of the state of emergency, including any extensions.

Performance of COVID-19 Testing by Pharmacists

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Health by the laws of Maryland, including but not limited to Md. HEALTH-GENERAL Code Ann. Sections 18-102 and 18-103, and [Executive Order Number 20-05-19-01](#), I hereby provide notice of the Department’s intent to permit licensed pharmacists to: (1) order COVID-19 Tests for patients; and (2) collect or supervise the collection of specimens from patients for the purpose of COVID-19 Testing. A laboratory may perform a COVID-19 Test based on the written or electronic authorization of a Licensed Pharmacist. Tests must be performed in accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Screening Guidance, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>.

Pharmacies may bill for specimen collection for COVID-19 testing using one of the following three NDC Codes:

- 11877001126
- 22066000511
- 11877001127

The Department's Medicaid Fee-for-Service Pharmacy Point of Sale Vendor has programmed these new codes and reimbursement into the system for billing (see <http://mdrxprograms.com/ooep.html#PSI> for payer specific information with instructions on how to submit a claim). Pharmacies can bill for dates of services starting May 29, 2020. The fee-for-service reimbursement rate is \$23.12.

HealthChoice Managed Care Organizations must also allow pharmacies to bill through their Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) systems and must reimburse pharmacies at this same rate.