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## COVID-19 news from UnitedHealthcare

Testing and treatment coverage changes, billing reminders and more

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve at a rapid pace, with developments around testing, treatment, vaccines and more. We know you may have questions about what these developments mean for you and your patients. We've summarized several of the key changes below, and our [COVID-19 Billing Guide](#), [Summary of COVID-19 Temporary Program Provisions](#) and [website](#) have been updated with more information about each of these items.

### Over-the-counter at-home COVID-19 tests

Beginning Jan. 15, 2022, UnitedHealthcare is covering the cost of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized or approved over-the-counter (OTC) at-home COVID-19 diagnostic tests for Individual and Family Plan and Individual and Group Market health plan members. For tests purchased on or after Jan. 15, members can be reimbursed for up to 8 FDA-authorized or approved OTC at-home diagnostic tests per covered member every calendar month at no cost to the member (no cost sharing, copay, coinsurance or deductible). We want you to be aware that the [OTC testing coverage page](#) on UHC.com, our member website, has up-to-date information for members.

### National public health emergency extended

The national public health emergency has been extended from Jan. 15, 2022 to April 15, 2022. Here's how that extension affects temporary provisions for COVID-19 testing and

testing-related visits:

- **Individual Exchange, Individual and Group Market health plans:** From Feb. 4, 2020 through the national public health emergency period, UnitedHealthcare is waiving cost sharing for in-network and out-of-network COVID-19 tests and testing-related visits.
- **Medicare Advantage:** From Feb. 4, 2020 through the national public health emergency period, UnitedHealthcare is waiving cost sharing for in-network and out-of-network tests for COVID-19, including testing-related telehealth visits.
- **Medicaid:** State-specific rules and other state regulations may apply. For Medicaid and other state-specific regulations, please refer to your state-specific website or your state's UnitedHealthcare Community Plan website, if applicable.

## Monoclonal antibody and antiviral coverage changes

To recap recent FDA decisions around COVID-19 treatment, currently there are 2 monoclonal antibody and 3 antiviral treatment options authorized or approved for use:

### Monoclonal antibody options

- Sotrovimab
- Evusheld (pre-exposure prophylaxis use only)

### Antiviral options

- remdesivir (infusion)
- Plaxovid (oral)
- molnupieravir (oral)

On Jan. 24, 2022, the [FDA revised the authorizations](#) for 2 monoclonal antibody treatments — bamlanivimab and etesevimab (administered together) and REGEN-COV (casirivimab and imdevimab). In light of the FDA's decision, UnitedHealthcare will continue to reimburse claims for these treatments for dates of service through Jan. 31, 2022. Claims for these treatments on or after Feb. 1, 2022 will be denied.

These treatments are no longer authorized for use in any U.S. state, territory or jurisdiction to treat COVID-19. This decision was made because data shows these treatments are highly unlikely to be effective against the Omicron variant, which is now the predominant variant in the U.S.

## Reminder: CMS billing change

## effective Jan. 1, 2022

Effective Jan. 1, 2022, health care professionals who administer the COVID-19 vaccine serum or monoclonal antibody treatment to Medicare Advantage members should submit medical claims through the UnitedHealthcare **standard claims process**.

For services rendered through Dec. 31, 2021, claims should be billed to the applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) **Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)**, as previously established for reimbursement of these claims.

We're working closely with CMS, the FDA, the federal government and state agencies to monitor developments and update information as quickly as possible.



We appreciate your continued focus on putting patient care first during the COVID-19 national public health emergency. You are providing exceptional care in unprecedented circumstances. We recognize the sacrifices you make, the long hours you work, the unrelenting demand on your medical expertise. We are deeply grateful for everything you do. And on behalf of UnitedHealthcare employees and members, we thank you.

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