

Payment Policy | Temporary Coronavirus (COVID-19) Laboratory Testing



EFFECTIVE DATE: 03 | 06 | 2020

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 03 | 06 | 2020

OVERVIEW

Diagnostic laboratory testing related to COVID-19 is covered by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) under the members laboratory benefit for those members that meet the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines/indications for testing.

During the time-period of heightened concern over the COVID-19 outbreak, BCBSRI has determined that it will temporarily waive cost-share (e.g. co-pays and deductibles) for the laboratory test(s) that are used to screen/test for COVID-19.

This policy applies to BCBSRI participating providers, including, but not limited to the Rhode Department of Health Laboratory.

BCBSRI reserves the right to implement and revoke this policy and/or make a change to the waiver of member cost share without the contractual sixty-day (60) notification for a change in policy that is normally required under BCBSRI contracts with its providers. This would apply both for the effective date, due to the urgent and emergent nature of a pandemic, as well as for the withdrawal of the policy.

Notice of the implementation and withdrawal of this policy will only be communicated to BCBSRI providers via a notice on BCBSRI's provider website/portal under Alerts and Updates.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercials Products

Diagnostic laboratory testing related to COVID-19 for those members that meet the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines/indications for testing under a members laboratory benefit.

During the time period of heightened concern over the COVID-19 outbreak, BCBSRI will temporarily waive cost share for COVID-19 laboratory testing for participating providers (see applicable HCPCS codes in the Coding Section below) that is used to screen for COVID-19.

BCBSRI Cost Share Waiver

BCBSRI will waive all member cost share for BCBSRI members (waiver of the cost share does not apply to BlueCard HOST members/those members of other Blue Cross Blue Shield Plans nationally) for laboratory testing related to COVID-19 as outlined in this policy. Providers should NOT collect cost share from a member in accordance with this policy.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage, or Subscriber Agreement for applicable laboratory services benefits/coverage.

BACKGROUND

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) billing codes, U0001 and U0002 to bill for tests and track new cases of the virus. Code U0001 may be used for CDC testing laboratories. Code U0002 may be used for tests established by laboratories that develop their own validated COVID-19 diagnostics when submitting claims to Medicare or health insurers.

CODING

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

U0001 - SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19) CDC laboratory testing. (Final description of code to be determined.)

U0002 - SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19) non-CDC laboratory testing. (Final description of code to be determined.)

REIMBURSEMENT

BCBSRI reserves the right to audit medical and/or any administrative records related to adherence to all the requirements of this policy.

RELATED POLICIES

Temporary Telemedicine/Telehealth Services Provided Via Telephone Only

PUBLISHED

BCBSRI's website under Medical and Payment Policies

REFERENCES

Not applicable

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