

Payment Policy | TEMPORARY Cost Share Waiver for Treatment of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 During the COVID-19 Crisis



EFFECTIVE DATE: 04|01|2020

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 02|19|2021

OVERVIEW

This **TEMPORARY** policy documents that Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) will waive cost share for treatment when there is a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 during the timeframe that this policy is in effect.

This policy is applicable to Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products.

This policy is applicable to In-Network Providers only.

Refer to the Related Policies section for other policies related to services rendered during this designated timeframe.

Medicare Advantage Plans

This policy is effective for dates of service on or after April 1, 2020 through the earlier of March 31, 2021 **OR** the end of the Public Health Emergency (as declared by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and published at www.phe.gov). Any inpatient stay/admission date prior to the end date of this policy will continue to have cost share waived until the date of discharge.

Commercial Plans

This policy is effective for dates of service on or after April 1, 2020 through and including March 31, 2021. Any inpatient stay/admission date prior to April 1, 2021 will continue to have cost share waived until the date of discharge.

BCBSRI will communicate the end date of the Medicare Advantage Plan cost share waiver either through an update to this policy and/or a notice on Alerts and Updates.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) reserves the right to implement and revoke this policy 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.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Please refer to BCBSRI.com for current Authorization and Referral Guidelines requirements.

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

This policy is applicable to the following services:

- Ambulance Providers
- Durable Medical Equipment (items directly related to treatment and care for COVID-19)
- Emergency Room*
- Home Health Care

- Home Infusions Providers
- Hospital Outpatient Services such as Physical Therapy, Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Inpatient *
- Long Term Skilled Care Facilities (LTACH)*
- Observation *
- Provider Office *
- Skilled Nursing Facilities*
- Urgent Care Centers*

***Note:** This includes any Telemedicine/Telehealth/Telephone (POS-02) services.

COVERAGE

Services identified in this policy are covered with no cost share to the member during the timeframe the policy is in effect.

BCBSRI Cost Share Waiver

BCBSRI will waive all member cost share for BCBSRI subscribers (waiver of the cost share does not/may not apply to BlueCard HOST members/those members of other Blue Cross Blue Shield Plans nationally) for services related to COVID-19 treatment as outlined in this policy, during the time period this policy is in effect. Providers should NOT collect cost share from a member in accordance with this policy.

Please note that BCBSRI self-insured/administrative services only accounts may elect to opt out of this policy and continue to either apply subscriber cost share or waive cost share beyond the end date of this policy for those subscribers covered under their benefit plan. BCBSRI will take all reasonable steps to inform and maintain a listing of those self-insured accounts that opt out of the terms of this policy. A listing of such self-insured accounts will be maintained on BCBSRI.com, under Alerts and Updates.

CODING

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

To ensure correct claims processing, claims filed in accordance with this policy must adhere to the coding instructions found below.

For the following places of service claims filed with any of the following ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes below will process with no cost share:

- Ambulance
- Emergency Room
- Provider Office
- Urgent Care Centers

Applicable ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes:

B34.2 Coronavirus infection, unspecified

B97.21 SARS-associated coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

B97.29 Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

J12.82 Pneumonia due to Coronavirus disease 2019 (effective 1/1/2021)

U07.1 COVID-19

Z03.818 Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out

Z20.828 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases

For the following places of service claims filed with any of the following ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes below will process with no cost share:

- Durable Medical Equipment directly related to treatment and care for COVID19
- Home Health Care

- Home Infusions Providers
- Hospital Outpatient Services such as Physical Therapy, Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Inpatient
- Long Term Skilled Care Facilities (LTACH)
- Observation
- Skilled Nursing Facilities

Applicable ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes:

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 U07.1 COVID-19

RELATED POLICIES

TEMPORARY Telemedicine/Telehealth and Telephone Services During the COVID-19 Crisis – Effective 3/18/20

TEMPORARY Policy for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing

TEMPORARY Timely Filing Limit Extension Policy – Additional 180 Days During the COVID-19 Crisis

TEMPORARY Encounter for Determination of Need for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing

Telemedicine/Telephone Service – Medicare Advantage Plans

Telemedicine/Telephone Services for Commercial Products

PUBLISHED

An FAQ document is available on BCBSRI.com

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This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center. If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions. This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

