

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2314-MC-FFS-CVD**

**DATE:** February 20, 2022

**TO:** Pharmacies, Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Providers, Iowa Medicaid Hospital, Physician MD, Physician DO, Podiatrist, Optometrist, Rural Health Clinic (RHC), Clinic, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), Psychologist, Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Clinical Social Worker, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Behavioral Health and Physician Assistant Providers, Area Education Agency (AEA), and Local Education Agency (LEA), Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS), Coronavirus Disease (CVD)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid

**RE:** Over-the-Counter (OTC) Home Testing for COVID-19

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

The purpose of this informational letter is to provide guidance to providers on billing for OTC home testing for COVID-19. This policy will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency (PHE).

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Iowa Medicaid will provide members access to OTC home testing for COVID-19. This coverage differs from requirements under commercial plans in that there will be no reimbursement directly to Iowa Medicaid members who purchase the tests. All tests must be obtained and billed through a provider.

Providers who can bill as durable medical equipment (DME) providers (including pharmacies) on a CMS-1500 medical claim will be able to provide and bill for OTC tests using the HCPCS code T5999 (supply, not otherwise specified). No prescription will be required. No prior authorization is needed for FFS or in-network Managed Care Organization (MCO) providers.

Members will be limited to one (1) unit per member per day, and up to four (4) units per member per 30 calendar days. This limit is a combined maximum for the member cumulatively across all billing providers. One unit = one kit. Reimbursement will be up to

\$25.00 per kit. Both OTC antigen tests and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, that are FDA-approved, will be covered.

Providers should bill the MCOs and FFS for OTC home tests in accordance with their medical benefit policies and procedures, using the appropriate electronic submission standards.

Other avenues for members to access OTC tests for COVID-19:

- [Test Iowa](#)<sup>1</sup> – Offers at-home test kits that you can return and receive your results via email.
- [COVIDtests.gov](#)<sup>2</sup> – Obtain at-home test kits from the federal government.

If you have questions, please contact the appropriate MCO or the Iowa Medicaid Provider Services Unit:

**Iowa Medicaid Provider Services for FFS members:**

- Provider Services: 1-800-338-7909
- Provider email: [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us)

**Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.:**

- Provider Services: 1-800-454-3730
- Provider email: [iowamedicaid@amerigroup.com](mailto:iowamedicaid@amerigroup.com)
- Website: <https://providers.amerigroup.com/ia>

**Iowa Total Care:**

- Provider Services: 1-833-404-1061
- Website: <https://www.iowatotalcare.com>

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<sup>1</sup> [Test Iowa](#)

<sup>2</sup> [COVIDtests.gov – Free at-home COVID-19 tests](#)