

Announcement for Empire Plan Network Providers Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Issue

March 20, 2020

The top priority of UnitedHealthcare and The Empire Plan is the health and wellbeing of the people we serve. A team of experts is working quickly to make sure our members and their care providers have what they need to respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health issue.

For Empire Plan members, UnitedHealthcare will provide coverage and waive member copays for:

- **COVID-19 testing** performed at approved locations and following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.
- **Visits in conjunction with the above COVID-19 testing to diagnose the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)** at the following locations, including through telehealth:
 - In-network provider's office
 - In-network urgent care center
 - Emergency department of a hospital
 - Any other in-network outpatient provider setting able to diagnose the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)
- **All in-network services delivered via telehealth when such service would have been covered under the policy if it had been delivered in person.** Telehealth means the use of electronic information and communication technologies, including the telephone, by a health care provider to deliver health care services to an insured while such insured is located at a site that is different from the site where the health care provider is located. This telehealth coverage is in effect during the state of emergency declared by the New York State governor relative to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and applies to any covered diagnosis.

This communication serves as the written notice as required by applicable regulation.

Care Provider Reimbursement for COVID-19 Testing

Lab care providers should use the newly created HCPCS codes when billing for COVID-19 testing. Centers for Medicaid & Medicare (CMS) created the following HCPCS codes for testing performed on or after February 4, 2020:

- HCPCS U0001: Used for the laboratory test developed by the CDC.
- HCPCS U0002: Used for the laboratory test developed by entities other than the CDC.

American Medical Association (AMA) has also released CPT® code 87635 for lab testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-2-CoV-2).

UnitedHealthcare will have these codes loaded in our claims system for dates of service on or after February 4, 2020, and ready for processing and payment by April 1, 2020.

By submitting a claim to UnitedHealthcare for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, care providers acknowledge they will accept **\$35.92 for HCPCS U0001**, **\$51.33 for HCPCS U0002**, and **\$51.33 for CPT 87635**, respectively, as full payment for each diagnostic test performed and will not seek additional reimbursement from members.

Where to Look for Updates

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health issue is evolving rapidly. For the most current information regarding UnitedHealthcare's response, please visit us online. And should you have any questions, contact your Empire Plan network representative.

- For the latest news and guidance on the virus, please visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov).
- For important information from UnitedHealthcare on COVID-19, visit [UHC.com](https://www.uhc.com).
- **For UnitedHealthcare COVID-19 related resources for providers, visit [UHCprovider.com/COVID19](https://www.uhcprovider.com/COVID19).**