


ISSUE DATE <p style="text-align: center;">May 1, 2020</p>	EFFECTIVE DATE <p style="text-align: center;">March 1, 2020</p>	NUMBER <p style="text-align: center;">99-20-05</p>
SUBJECT <p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Testing and Related Treatment Exempt from MA Copayment Requirements</p>		BY  <p style="text-align: center;">Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs</p>

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISE to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISE-Enrollment.aspx>.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to advise providers that COVID-19 testing and testing-related services and treatment are exempt from copayment requirements, effective with dates of service on and after March 1, 2020.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to enrolled providers who render services to beneficiaries in the MA Fee-for-Service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems.

BACKGROUND:

On March 6, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf issued a public health emergency [declaration](#) in response to the presence of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. On March 13, 2020, COVID-19 was declared a nationwide emergency under the Stafford Act retroactive to January 27, 2020.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has said that states may waive copayments for Medicaid services related to COVID-19 testing and treatment.

DISCUSSION:

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx>.

The Department suspended copayments effective with dates of service on and after March 1, 2020, for testing services (including in vitro diagnostic products), testing-related services, and treatments for COVID-19, including vaccines, specialized equipment and therapies (including drugs).

MA copayments are also suspended for the following drugs/drug categories, as they may be used in the treatment of COVID-19:

- Acetaminophen
- Antidiarrheals
- Antiemetics
- Antihistamines (Second Generation)
- Anti-infectives
- Asthma/COPD
- Ophthalmic Antihistamines/Decongestants
- Ophthalmic Lubricants
- Oral NSAIDs

PROCEDURE:

Effective with dates of service on and after March 1, 2020, COVID-19 testing and testing-related services and treatment are exempt from MA copayment requirements. MA providers may not collect copayments for services necessary to test for or treat COVID-19 and the amount of the copayment will not be deducted from the amount paid to the provider.

To ensure proper payment, MA providers testing and/or treating beneficiaries for COVID-19 must include a COVID-19 diagnosis code on their MA FFS claims as described in provider Quick Tips “ICD-10-CM code for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)”, issued on March 27, 2020 and “ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines Related to COVID-19”, issued on March 17, 2020.

Providers who render services in the managed care delivery system should submit claims according to the billing procedures of the applicable MA Managed Care Organization.

This guidance will remain in effect for the duration of the Governor's disaster declaration relating to the COVID-19 virus. The Department may re-issue these guidelines as appropriate.

Information on MA Program coverage related to COVID-19, to include an FAQ document, can be found on the Department of Human Services website [here](#).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click [here](#) for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.