



# Announcement

**CHANGE**  
HEALTHCARE

May 8, 2020

## DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates

Dear Valued Customer,

Change Healthcare is committed to keeping you informed regarding the ongoing publications related to COVID-19. The details are rapidly changing, and these CSAs are one way we are sharing the details that pertain specifically to our pharmacy customers.

This notification is to inform you of the following items recently published by CMS, HHS, NCPDP and the DME MACs as they relate to pharmacies.

Also included is an outline of previously published notifications to help consolidate all COVID-19 items into one reference guide.

(The below details are directly from publications provided from the above sources)

### New / Updated Items of Interest

#### **1. Trump Administration Issues Second Round of Sweeping Changes to Support U.S. Healthcare System During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Pharmacists can work with a physician or other practitioner to provide assessment and specimen collection services, and the physician or other practitioner can bill Medicare for the services. Pharmacists also can perform certain COVID-19 tests if they are enrolled in Medicare as a laboratory, in accordance with a pharmacist's scope of practice and state law. With these changes, beneficiaries can get tested at "parking lot" test sites operated by pharmacies and other entities consistent with state requirements. Such point-of-care sites are a key component in expanding COVID-19 testing capacity.

Click [here](#) to access the CMS news release.

We encourage your review of this news release for additional information regarding pharmacy involvement.

#### **2. HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Reimbursement Program**

As part of the FFCRA and (CARES) Act, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), will provide claims reimbursement to health care providers generally at Medicare rates for testing uninsured patients for COVID-19 and treating uninsured patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis. The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) has contracted with UnitedHealth Group to be the sole administrator of the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program.

Reimbursement under this program will be made for qualifying testing for COVID-19 and treatment services with a primary COVID-19 diagnosis, as determined by HRSA (subject to adjustment as may be necessary), which include the following:

i. Specimen collection, diagnostic and antibody testing, and more. HRSA details can be found at: <https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim>.

This plan is billable via Change Healthcare for non-pharmacy providers as of Wednesday, May 6, 2020, and more specifically will be available via our MedRx platform as of Friday, May 8, 2020, *pending confirmation from the program administrator* that pharmacies/pharmacists are eligible for claims reimbursement.

### **3. NCPDP announces the availability of urgent industry guidance to aid pharmacists in expanding COVID-19 testing across the country.**

Click [here](#) to access the NCPDP Emergency Preparedness Information Version 1.7 document.

Please note Payers continue to evaluate these billing requirements to establish the appropriate benefit coverage, either medical or pharmacy. Change Healthcare is actively engaged with the payers to closely monitor and will communicate as updates become available.

### **Previously Published CSAs Related to COVID-19**

CSA Title	CSA Publication #	CSA Date
COVID-19 Medicare Day Supply Adjustment	CSA 032020d	March 20, 2020
Financial Payment Changes	CSA 040220e	April 2, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(Privacy over Paperwork – F2F, PA's, Accreditation, Signature Requirement, Audit suspension)</i>	CSA 041020b	April 10, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(HHS Authorizes Pharmacies to Administer COVID Tests, 2% Sequestration suspended, Accelerated Advanced Payment forms)</i>	CSA 041620a	April 16, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(CARES Act, NC Medicaid flexibilities, Multi-Function Ventilators E0467)</i>	CSA 042420b	April 24, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(2% Sequestration, Suspension of Advanced Payments, HHS Provider Relief Fund, Claims Reimbursement for Uninsured, TPE Suspended)</i>	CSA 042920b	April 29, 2020

Change Healthcare continues to monitor this rapidly evolving situation and will provide updates as circumstances change.

Change Healthcare is proud to be your business partner and remains committed to your success.

Thanks for your attention to this announcement,

**Change Healthcare**

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