March 16, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get information and updates about the coronavirus and COVID-19?
Information is available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html

Information about South Dakota’s response and updates about the coronavirus (COVID-19) is available from the South Dakota Department of Health at https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx

Does Medicaid cover testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)?
Yes. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is creating two new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for providers and laboratories to bill for the tests. The new HCPCS codes may be billed beginning April 1, 2020.

What code should providers use to bill testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)?
Providers should use the applicable newly designated HCPCS codes U0001 or U0002 to bill for testing for coronavirus (COVID-19). South Dakota Medicaid will accept these codes starting April 1, 2020 for services provided on or after February 4, 2020.

What is the reimbursement rate for the test for coronavirus (COVID-19)?
South Dakota Medicaid’s maximum allowable reimbursement rate for HCPCS code U0001 will be $35.91 and $51.31 for U0002. The rates are based on the South Dakota’s Medicare Administrative (MAC) contractor rate.

Will HCPCS U0001 and U0002 be available retroactively for billing?
Yes, South Dakota Medicaid will follow Medicare’s policy and make the code retroactively effective on February 4, 2020. The codes may be billed beginning April 1, 2020.

Is a telemedicine visit covered?
Yes, South Dakota Medicaid covers telemedicine services. The originating site and the distant site may not be located in the same community except in the following circumstances:
- The recipient resides in a nursing facility and the nursing facility is the originating site; or
- Telemedicine is being utilized primarily to reduce the risk of exposure of the provider, staff, or others to infection. Services may be provided via telemedicine when the distant site and originating site are in the same community to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.


The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor’s Drive, Pierre SD 57501, 605-773-3305.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).

Is a telemedicine visit covered if the patient participates from their home?
Yes, the distant site service is covered even when the patient participates from home. When the patient participates from home, there is no reimbursement for a facility fee.

Can recipients get extra medicine or supplies?
South Dakota Medicaid's dispensing limits have not changed. Medicaid recipients should continue to get supplies on an as-needed basis and should not stockpile medications or supplies. We are actively evaluating current dispensing limits in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.