

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

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April 29, 2020

ATTENTION: South Dakota Providers and Staff
FROM: South Dakota Department of Social Services
RE: Coverage of COVID-19 Testing and Treatment for the Uninsured

As part of the FFCRA and [CARES Act](#), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), will provide 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. Uninsured patients are those that do not have individual, employer-sponsored, Medicare or Medicaid health care coverage.

Effective immediately, providers may begin the enrollment process with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to receive reimbursement for the uninsured population. Health care providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured COVID-19 patients on or after February 4, 2020 can request claims reimbursement through the HRSA program. Providers may begin submitting claims on May 6, 2020. Reimbursement will be distributed beginning in mid-May 2020. Reimbursement is available for the following services provided to the uninsured:

- Specimen collection, diagnostic and antibody testing.
- Testing-related visits including in the following settings: office, urgent care or emergency room or via telehealth.
- Treatment, including office visit (including via telehealth), emergency room, inpatient, outpatient/observation, skilled nursing facility, long-term acute care (LTAC), acute inpatient rehab, home health, DME (e.g., oxygen, ventilator), emergency ground ambulance transportation, non-emergent patient transfers via ground ambulance, and FDA approved drugs as they become available for COVID-19 treatment and administered as part of an inpatient stay.
- FDA-approved vaccine, when available.

Health care providers must enroll as a provider with HRSA, check patient eligibility, submit patient information, submit claims electronically, and receive payment via direct deposit. Providers must agree to accept payment from the HRSA payment as payment in full.

To receive the most current information regarding reimbursement and treatment for providers serving the uninsured, please refer to the HRSA website at <https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim> or to HRSA's Frequently Asked Questions at <https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim/frequently-asked-questions>

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).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).