Billing Guidance

Pharmacy COVID-19 Testing

Revised August 24, 2020

Pursuant to New York State Executive Order #202.24, certain pharmacists are allowed to order, administer, and hold the position of lab director for limited services laboratories as it related to testing for COVID-19 subject to certificate of waiver requirements pursuant to the federal clinical laboratory improvement act of nineteen hundred eighty-eight, in patients suspected of a COVID-19 infection, or suspected of having recovered from COVID-19 infection, subject to completion of appropriate training. As such, pharmacists employed by pharmacies with a CLIA Certificate of Waiver or that are registered per individual state's guidance as a Limited Service Laboratory (LSL), may administer any COVID-19 test to detect infection or antibodies that has been approved by the FDA or granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and which are CLIA-waived. Pharmacists may also perform sample collection to send to external labs to perform higher complexity laboratory testing.

Independent Health covers COVID-19 testing with no cost-sharing when a healthcare provider decides that testing is medically appropriate for the purpose of diagnosing or treating the individual. However, Based on federal guidance, Independent Health does not cover COVID-19 testing when it is to screen for general workplace health and safety (such as employee "return to work" programs), for public health surveillance, or for any other purpose not intended to diagnose or treat an individual. Our policy is consistent with other plans throughout New York State and across the country. This guidance describes the billing procedures when COVID-19 testing is not covered for the instances as described above. Eligibility records must be maintained by Participating Pharmacy and produced to IH upon request. Violation of this provision will result in the Participating Pharmacy being responsible for the payment of all COVID-19 fees.

Claims for COVID-19 testing and collection may be retroactively billed back to April 25, 2020, the date of the signing of Executive Order #202.24.

For CLIA-Waived COVID-19 testing, Participating Pharmacies must complete/comply with all the following:

1. Hold either a CLIA Certificate of Waiver or, in states with their own licensing/registration requirements, applicable state license/registration;
2. Have insurance coverage to perform CLIA-waived tests;
3. Complete all applicable federal and state training to perform these tests;
4. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of the test they are performing;
5. Tests must be approved by the FDA or granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA);
6. Accept the reimbursement provided below, with no copayment or coinsurance from the Member, as payment in full for all COVID-19 testing rendered to Members and in no event shall it bill, charge, collect a deposit from, seek compensation, remuneration or reimbursement from, or have any recourse against the Member, including personal protective equipment; and
7. Bill using "dummy" NDCs provided below (as new tests which meet the above criteria are approved, additional NDCs will be added):

Test Type	NDC To Bill (407-D7)	Reimbursement*
Molecular	00000-0000-03	$51.31
Antigen	00000-0000-04	$51.31

*Pharmacies should not bill separately for specimen collection when performing the CLIA-waived tests. Additionally, if another source is already providing payment, Independent Health should not be billed for the test or collection.

For COVID-19 specimen collection only, Participating Pharmacies must complete/comply with all the following:

1. Complete all applicable federal and state training to perform specimen collection;
2. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for sample collection for the test for which it is collecting samples;
3. Samples must be sent to a participating laboratory for testing – sending to an Out of Network Lab without the specific written permission of Independent Health is strictly prohibited. Violation of this provision will result in the Participating Pharmacy being responsible for the payment of all fees to the Out of Network Lab. A list of participating laboratories can be found on Independent Health's website (https://www.independenthealth.com/Portals/0/PDFs/ProvidersPublic/ParticipatingLabs.pdf);
4. Tests must be approved by the FDA or granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA);
5. Accept the reimbursement provided below, with no copayment or coinsurance from the Member, as payment in full for all COVID-19 specimen collection rendered to Members and in no event shall it bill, charge, collect a deposit from, seek compensation, remuneration or reimbursement from, or have any recourse against the Member, including personal protective equipment; and
6. Bill using "dummy" NDC provided below:

Service	NDC To Bill (407-D7)	Reimbursement
Specimen Collection Only	60004-0417-80	$23.46

This guidance applies to all of Independent Health's fully insured lines of business (Commercial, Medicare, and State plans). The BIN numbers for the lines of business are as follows:

Commercial (including Large Group, Small Group, and Individual plans):	004626
State (including MediSource, Child Health Plus, and Essential plans):	016557
Medicare (including Group and Individual plans):	012635

If assistance is needed, please contact Independent Health's Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1(800)-993-9898.