PROVIDER ALERT

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing and Coding

Testing

Testing for COVID-19 is rapidly expanding, and CalOptima would like to make our contracted, community-based providers aware of the status of testing in Orange County.

Per the Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA), providers can now directly order tests at commercial labs including Quest Diagnostics and LabCorp and are encouraged to do so. Providers should reach out to these labs to request testing supplies. Given the demand, providers have reported experiencing a slight delay in response to their request for supplies. Once providers have the testing supplies, they may collect specimens for patients with suspected COVID-19 in their offices. Please make sure to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) COVID-19 specimen collection recommendations as well as the individual labs' collection, storage and delivery instructions. Labs are prohibited from collecting the specimens in their public centers. Specimens are then sent to the lab for results. Specimens are being processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Testing is also available through the Orange County Health Care Agency Public Health Lab for County-identified Priority Populations, and information about the lab process is on the county's website at www.ochealthinfo.com, under "Healthcare Professionals." As the situation is changing rapidly please continue to follow the latest OC Public Health Department updates at www.ochealthinfo.com.

Coding

DHCS is expediting implementation of new CMS HCPCS codes U0001 and U0002, retroactively to February 4, 2020.

- HCPCS code U0001 is billable for the tests developed by the CDC, and will be payable for both Medi-Cal and Medicare at $35.91 for COVID-19.

- HCPCS code U0002 is billable for non-CDC laboratory tests, and will be payable for both Medi-Cal and Medicare at $51.31 for COVID-19.

In these unprecedented times, CalOptima plans to share regular updates for the provider community. We appreciate your partnership in protecting the health of Orange County. Thank you for serving CalOptima members.

DHCS has provided guidance regarding COVID-19-related services and coding issues. Unless CalOptima provides CalOptima-specific instructions on the topics covered in the DHCS guidance, CalOptima will be implementing the same requirements. The DHCS guidance is available here:
https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/COVID-19/COVID-19_Medi-Cal_Services_Notice-eb-Final.pdf.

Additional provider communications, regarding COVID-19, can be found on the CalOptima website at:
https://www.caloptima.org/en/Features/COVID-19/ProviderCommunication.aspx.

March 19, 2020