

Effective May 12, 2023, pharmacies with a CLIA Certificate of Waiver can continue to bill Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network for COVID-19 testing for patients with Medicare Plus BlueSM and BCN AdvantageSM coverage.

For more information, refer to [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\)](#)* on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website.

Check member eligibility and benefits for coverage and collect any member out-of-pocket costs.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, which ended May 11, 2023, pharmacies that were able to submit Medicare Part B medical claims could bill Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network for COVID-19 testing for our Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage members. This was in accordance with:

- [Laboratories: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19](#) issued by CMS
- [Guidance](#)* issued April 8, 2020 by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Service
- Clarifications included in [FAQs](#)* issued Feb. 26, 2021 on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, known as FFCRA, and the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act, known as the CARES Act.

COVID-19 testing policies

Effective May 12, 2023, pharmacists cannot order COVID-19 tests for patients with Medicare coverage. All COVID-19 tests for patients with Medicare Plus Blue or BCN Advantage coverage must be ordered by a physician or nonphysician practitioner following policies set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

During the public health emergency, which ended May 11, 2023, patients with Medicare Plus Blue or BCN Advantage coverage were allowed one COVID-19 test without an order from a physician or other practitioner in accordance with CMS policy. All subsequent tests required an order from a health care provider. The provider could be a licensed physician, pharmacist or attending clinician operating within the scope of their license.

During the public health emergency, and until further notice, the provider must:

- Determine testing is medically necessary by performing an individualized clinical assessment and using judgment in accordance with accepted standards of medical practice. Medical necessity is not dependent on whether the patient is experiencing symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19.

- Ensure the test has received or is waiting to receive approval for use (including emergency use) by the Food and Drug Administration, all applicable state and federal safety guidelines are met and report test results to the appropriate agencies.
- Maintain documentation to support coverage and medical necessity, which may be audited by Blue Cross, BCN or a governmental agency.
- Submit the results of COVID-19 laboratory tests (positive or negative) to the Michigan Health Information Network (MIHIN) within three days of completion of the test.

Blue Cross and BCN will **not** cover the cost of workplace or occupational screening COVID-19 tests. As part of our standard policy, we don't cover testing for return-to-work strategies, similar to how we don't cover drug testing for employment purposes.

Billable testing codes

The billable testing codes for COVID-19 tests for Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage follow Medicare billing and coding rules. Please refer to the [CMS Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule Files](#).*

More information

You can find other COVID-19 related documents for pharmacies on our public website. Here's how to find them:

1. Go to bcbsm.com/providers.
2. Click the *Resources* tab.
3. Under *Key forms and documents* click *View all* to open the [For Providers: Forms and Documents](#) webpage.
4. Choose *COVID-19* from the drop-down list at the top of the page or scroll to the *COVID-19* section.

If you have questions:

For Medicare Plus Blue members, call 1-866-309-1719. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday

For BCN Advantage members, call 1-800-344-8525. Hours are 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday.

*Clicking this link means that you're leaving the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network website. While we recommend this site, we're not responsible for its content.