

COVID-19 Testing at section 1905(a)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act

During the period starting March 11, 2021 and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act):

Coverage

X The state assures coverage of COVID-19 testing consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definitions of diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 and its recommendations for who should receive diagnostic and screening tests for COVID-19.

X The state assures that such coverage:

1. Includes all types of FDA authorized COVID-19 tests;
2. Is provided to all categorically needy eligibility groups covered by the state that receive full Medicaid benefits;
3. Is provided to the optional COVID-19 group if applicable; and
4. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(I) and 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xiii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

Please describe any limits on amount, duration or scope of COVID-19 testing consistent with 42 CFR 440.230(b).

Home test, self-administered Antigen kits require dispensing from a pharmacy, written (or electronic equivalent) on a prescription signed by a licensed prescriber or a pharmacist. Test kits are limited to eight tests per beneficiary per month (or four test kits that include two separate tests). This limit can be exceeded if ordered or administered by a provider following an individualized clinical assessment.

X Applies to the state's approved Alternative Benefit Plans, without any deduction, cost sharing, or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(B) of the Act.

X The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration.

Additional Information (Optional):

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Reimbursement

X The state assures that it has established state plan rates for COVID-19 testing consistent with the CDC definitions of diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 and its recommendations for who should receive diagnostic and screening tests for COVID-19.

List references to Medicaid state plan payment methodologies that describe the rates for COVID-19 testing for each applicable Medicaid benefit:

DHCS established payment for all tests required to be covered by ARP, except over-the-counter home Antigen tests, at 100 percent of the Medicare via SPA 20-0024.

X The state is establishing rates for COVID-19 testing pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

_____ The state's rates for COVID-19 testing are consistent with Medicare rates for testing, including any future Medicare updates at the:

_____ Medicare national average, OR

_____ Associated geographically adjusted rate.

X The state is establishing a state specific fee schedule for COVID-19 testing pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rate is as follows and the state's fee schedule is published in the following location :

Effective March 11, 2021, the provision of home tests required to be covered and paid by ARP are paid using the MAPC + 23% methodology. The payment is listed in the covered List as MAPC, per test. The listed MAPC does not include the 23% markup, which is applied separately during claim adjudication. DHCS will not reimburse providers for test kits obtained at no cost.

The individual price per test along with a list of the covered tests is readily available on the Medi-Cal Rx website and is called the *Covered Emergency Use of Authorization (EUA) COVID-19 Antigen Tests*. It can be found at this location: https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/cms/medicalrx/static-assets/documents/provider/forms-and-information/Covered_EUA_COVID-19_Antigen_Tests.xlsx.

DHCS is establishing the home test kit rates with this SPA template and will extend the DR 20-0024 payment methodology until the end of the ARP period.

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X The state's fee schedule is the same for all governmental and private providers.

 The below listed providers are paid differently from the above rate schedules and payment to these providers for COVID-19 testing is described under the benefit payment methodology applicable to the provider type:

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Additional Information (Optional):

 The payment methodologies for COVID-19 testing for providers listed above are described below:

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