



Network Notification

Notice Date: April 16, 2020
To: Ohio Providers
From: CareSource
Subject: COVID-19: Temporary Expansion for Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Influenza Virus Infection and Streptococcus A and B
Effective Date: April 1, 2020

Beginning on May 12, 2023, this notification is expiring in alignment with the end of the Public Health Emergency.

Summary

CareSource is continuing to monitor data in an effort to identify trends to ensure that all barriers to care are removed as they relate to COVID-19. CareSource has noticed an increase in claims for molecular diagnostic testing for influenza and streptococcus A and B that are resulting in denials based on our current published reimbursement policies. Due to this, CareSource has taken the following actions to support testing payment and ensure our policies do not delay diagnosis or cause administrative burdens.

Impact

We are temporarily adding an additional layer of criteria that will allow for payment of molecular diagnostic testing:

- Member meets all recommended [clinical criteria for testing](#) of COVID-19 as outlined in the guidance published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - **Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Influenza:** CPT codes 87651 or 87653 must be billed on the same date of service and rendered by the same physician as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) published CPT code 87635 or HCPCS code U0002 for COVID-19 testing.
 - **Molecular Diagnostics Testing for Streptococcus A and B:** CPT code 87501 or 87502 must be billed on the same date of service and rendered by the same physician as the CMS published CPT code 87635 or HCPCS code U0002 for COVID-19 testing.

Importance

Our expansion of the member criteria for molecular diagnostic testing with associated codes streamlines the reimbursement process for molecular diagnostic testing.

Please reference CareSource's Marketplace reimbursement policies for more details on billing for these tests:

Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Influenza	Molecular Diagnostics Testing for Streptococcus A and B
Ohio Medicaid	Ohio Medicaid
Ohio Marketplace	Ohio Marketplace
Ohio Medicare	Ohio Medicare

Questions?

For questions, please contact Provider Services at **1-800-488-0134**. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.