



FROM: Maureen Corcoran, Director
RE: COVID-19 Specimen Collection by Ohio Medicaid Pharmacy Providers
DATE: August 17, 2020

On June 29, 2020, the Ohio Department of Medicaid took definitive action to increase access to COVID-19 diagnostic testing by announcing reimbursement to pharmacies for specimen collection administered to Ohio Medicaid recipients. To expedite this initiative, the use of a local identifier was necessary because most of the available specimen collection kits do not have a unique National Drug Code (NDC).

After our work began, the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) announced the implementation of a standard product identifier for COVID-19 specimen collection, when there is no other product identifier for the product being used to collect the specimen. ODM recognizes the importance of consistency and standardization, and therefore recommends the use of the following identifier when submitting pharmacy claims for COVID-19 specimen collection, when no other identifier exists:

99999-0992-11 (COVID-19 Test Specimen Collection)

The local identifier previously communicated will continue to be active in our system, in order to allow time for any necessary pharmacy system changes and to avoid service interruption. Pharmacies also should have received information from each Ohio Medicaid Managed Care Plan regarding their billing and reimbursement processes for COVID-19 diagnostic testing. Use of the above identifier will not result in any change to reimbursement for pharmacies performing specimen collection.

More information can be found at the [link](#). ODM looks forward to working with pharmacy providers to increase access to necessary COVID-19 testing and we will continue to work to deliver innovative strategies in a timely manner to address the pandemic.

Please direct questions to the Ohio Medicaid Pharmacy Program at:
MEDICAID_PHARMACY@medicaid.ohio.gov.