This memo serves as notice of ODM’s intent to reimburse pharmacies for a licensed pharmacist to:
(1) order COVID-19 diagnostic tests for individuals served by Ohio Medicaid;
(2) collect or supervise the collection of specimens for the purpose of COVID-19 diagnostic testing; and,
(3) perform analysis of the collected specimen via an FDA-authorized point-of-care diagnostic test.

Please note that this memo only addresses testing; additional information about administration of vaccinations will be forthcoming.

Pharmacies are responsible for ensuring that the testing complies with all state and federal laws, regulations, and guidance around testing activity (e.g. CLIA certification/waiver, ODH testing guidance, etc.). Pharmacies also are responsible for ensuring proper notification of testing results to the appropriate entities.

Pharmacies may bill for COVID-19 diagnostic point-of-care testing using any FDA-authorized testing platforms. This includes both antigen and molecular diagnostic assays.

**Ohio Medicaid Fee For Service Requirements**

ODM’s fee-for-service pharmacy point of sale vendor, Change Healthcare, has programmed relevant codes and reimbursement rates into the system for billing. Please see pharmacy.medicaid.ohio.gov for payer specific information and instructions on how to submit a claim (link). Pharmacies may bill for testing with dates of service starting 12/22/2020.

The fee-for-service reimbursement rate for COVID-19 point-of-care testing is $74.77 for molecular testing and $40.01 for antigen testing. This reimbursement rate includes an incentive payment of $28.46 to perform all aspects of the testing process, in addition to payment for the materials utilized to perform testing. Providers that obtain no-cost testing kits are expected to report this as required on the payer sheet and will be eligible to receive only the incentive payment.

**Ohio Medicaid Managed Care Requirements**

Ohio Medicaid managed care plans (MCPs) must allow pharmacies to bill through their Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) systems and must reimburse pharmacies at the rate identified under fee for service. Pharmacies should confirm they are using the correct billing codes with each MCP. All the managed care plans have made similar system updates and are ready to reimburse pharmacies for COVID-19 point-of-care testing using a process similar to the one in place by ODM and Change Healthcare.
ODM looks forward to working with pharmacy providers to increase access to necessary COVID-19 testing. We will continue to work to deliver innovative strategies throughout the public health emergency and beyond.

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