



# COVID-19 news from UnitedHealthcare

## Billing and temporary provision updates, member outreach to encourage vaccinations

UnitedHealthcare is revising our COVID-19 resources to reflect additional billing guidance, and updating a number of temporary cost share provisions that were established as part of the COVID-19 response. Here's a high-level summary of the changes and effective dates:

### COVID-19 billing updates

- **Urgent care testing:** Effective March 26, 2021, UnitedHealthcare will reimburse COVID-19 testing by urgent care facilities only when billed with a COVID-19 testing procedure code along with one of the appropriate Z codes. This applies to claims for Individual and Group Market health plans. Reimbursement will be 100% of the CMS allowable rate.
- **Specimen collection codes:** Claims for Individual and Group Market health plans should use either CPT codes 99000 or 99001, so that cost share waivers for COVID-19 testing are appropriately applied.
- **New codes for monoclonal antibody treatments:** Bill using HCPCS code Q0245 and administration code M0245 for Bamlanivimab+Etesvimab treatment.
- **Services received during vaccination appointments:** Members will not have any out-of-pocket cost share for the COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine administration. They may be responsible for the copays, coinsurance, deductibles or out of-network changes for any additional services received during the vaccination appointment.
- **Mass vaccination programs:** We are accepting [roster billing](#) for COVID-19 mass vaccination sites for multi-tax identifier number (TIN) health care professionals. This applies to claims for Individual and Group Market fully insured health plans only.

[➤ View roster billing guide](#)

[> COVID-19 billing guide](#): The latest information related to vaccine administration billing and reimbursement

## Cost share waiver updates

Changes to cost share waivers are effective as of April 1, 2021:

### Medicare Advantage

- **COVID-19 treatment:** For both in- and out-of-network providers, members are responsible for any cost share (copay, coinsurance or deductible) for COVID-19 treatment. (Excluding monoclonal antibody treatment, as noted below.) Coverage and cost sharing (copay, coinsurance and deductible) for COVID-19 treatment will be adjudicated in accordance with the member's Medicare Advantage health plan.
  - This includes telehealth, inpatient and outpatient treatment.
  - Most UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plans have \$0 copays for covered telehealth services.
- **Monoclonal antibody treatment:** As previously communicated, the CMS MAC will reimburse claims for monoclonal antibody treatment for Medicare beneficiaries, including Medicare health plan members, with no cost share (copayment, coinsurance or deductible) through 2021.

### Individual and Group Market plans cost share waiver updates:

- **Monoclonal antibody treatment:** Coverage and cost sharing for the administration (intravenous infusion) of monoclonal antibodies will be adjudicated in accordance with the member's Individual and Group Market health plan. This includes administration of monoclonal antibodies in both in-network and out-of-network settings.

Reminder: Monoclonal antibody treatment will be considered a covered benefit during the national public health emergency period, currently scheduled to end April 20, 2021. Patients should meet the emergency use authorization (EUA) criteria for FDA-authorized monoclonal antibody treatment in an outpatient setting.

We've updated our summary of COVID-19 temporary program provisions with these new dates. We've also revised the guide to more clearly show the provisions that are currently in place and created a summary of previous (expired) provisions for your reference.

[> Summary of COVID-19 Temporary Program Provisions](#)

## COVID-19 vaccine information for members

Here's what we're doing to help educate our members across the country on COVID-19 vaccination and encourage them to take appropriate action:



### Eligibility criteria and outreach

Eligibility requirements and vaccine availability vary by state and change frequently. That's why we developed the **UnitedHealthcare Vaccine Resource Locator**. It's a one-stop spot for members to check their state eligibility guidelines and find appointment opportunities near them.

We're also emailing Medicare and commercial plan members who are age 65 and older about their eligibility to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. As eligibility expands in states to additional populations, we'll send emails to those new populations.



### Reminder/adherence outreach

We'll send reminders to members to take their second dose of the vaccine within the appropriate timeframe.



### Resources for COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy

Review our new **Building COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence** self-paced learning course for tips and scenarios that will help you respond during conversations with members.

Check out the **Vaccine Confidence resources** to help answer questions. It has information from the American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and UnitedHealthcare.

The most up-to-date information on UnitedHealthcare's COVID-19 response – including treatment, telehealth, vaccines, billing and more – is always found on **[UHCprovider.com/COVID19](https://UHCprovider.com/COVID19)**.

We appreciate all the work that you continue to do to care for your patients as the COVID-19 national public health emergency enters its second year. Thank you for your continuous efforts to keep our members healthy and informed.

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