

COVID-19 Information for Our Health Care Provider Partners

To: Participating Physicians and Facilities
Date: December 1, 2020
Subject: Administrative Policy AP-26 – COVID-19 Viral and Antibody Testing and Supplies; Reimbursement Update Effective March 1, 2021

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield will update Administrative Policy AP-26 COVID-19 Viral and Antibody Testing effective March 1, 2021, to define the coverage, reimbursement and billing guidelines for COVID-19 testing. This policy will apply to all participating practitioners and facilities for the Commercial (HMO, PPO, POS, ASO/ASC and Indemnity), and Medicare Advantage lines of business. It will apply to all participating providers for New York State Government Programs (Medicaid Managed Care, Health and Recovery Plan); facilities will be excluded.

This policy is in line with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) guidelines and applies to all lines of business.

The following information provides claim billing requirements for COVID-19 testing effective March 1.

Administrative Policy 26 – COVID-19 Viral and Antibody Testing and Supplies

- The Health Plan will not reimburse CPT codes 87501, 87502, 87503, 87804, 87400, 87275, and/or 87276 when billed with CPT code 87636 by the same provider on the same date of service.
- The Health Plan will not reimburse CPT codes 87501, 87502, 87503, 87804, 87400, 87275, 87276, 87420, and/or 87634 when billed with CPT code 87637 by the same provider on the same date of service.

Continued on reverse

- The Health Plan will not reimburse CPT codes 87501, 87502, 87503, 87804, 87400, 87275, and/or 87276 when billed with CPT code 0240U by the same provider on the same date of service.
- The Health Plan will not reimburse CPT codes 87501, 87502, 87503, 87804, 87400, 87275, 87276, 87420, and/or 87634 when billed with CPT code 0241U by the same provider on the same date of service.
- The Health Plan will not reimburse CPT codes 87501, 87502, 87503, 87804, 87400, 87275, and/or 87276 when billed with CPT code 87428 by the same provider on the same date of service.

Please note: Our communication issued October 22, 2020, advised you of additional editing on CPT codes (U0001, U0002, U0003, U0004, 87635, and/or 87426) effective January 21, 2021.

This policy will be reviewed pre-payment. Pre-payment review means claims are reviewed prior to payment. A pre-payment review results in an initial determination.

These services are subject to audit and policy updates at Excellus BCBS' discretion. Members are held harmless for all denials resulting from this Administrative Policy. You can access the individual policies on our website Provider.ExcellusBCBS.com. Note: You must login with your username and password to access our administrative policies. If you are not currently registered to view the secure section of our website, we encourage you to register today at Provider.ExcellusBCBS.com. If you need assistance registering, contact the Web Security Help Desk at 1-800-278-1247 or your Provider Relations representative.

A provider can dispute the denial of the facility, professional, or laboratory claims by submitting a grievance in accordance with Excellus BCBS' grievance process as set forth in our provider manual.

Thank you for the care that you deliver to our valued members.