

Stay informed about COVID-19

Latest COVID-19 news from UnitedHealthcare – Updates to temporary COVID-19 treatment and prior authorization provisions, reminders on vaccine administration reimbursement

Thank you for all the work you continue to do to care for your patients during this time. We are sharing the following updates to help you deliver care and be reimbursed for the services you provide:

- COVID-19 treatment cost share waivers
- Monoclonal antibody treatment
- Temporary national SNF prior authorization suppression ends Jan. 31, 2021
- Vaccine administration billing and reimbursement

COVID-19 treatment cost share waivers

Medicare Advantage

For Medicare Advantage health plans, cost sharing (copay, coinsurance and deductible) will be waived for in-network and out-of-network COVID-19 treatment, including inpatient and outpatient treatment, from Feb. 4, 2020 through Feb. 28, 2021. The cost share waiver was previously set to expire on Jan. 31, 2021.

Medicaid

State regulations for cost share waivers apply. Please check your state-specific website or [your state's](#) UnitedHealthcare Community Plan page for more information.

Individual and Group Market health plans

For Individual Exchange, Individual and Group Market health plans, the cost share waivers (copay, coinsurance and deductible) for inpatient COVID-19 treatment at in-network facilities will end Jan. 31, 2021. Beginning Feb. 1, 2021, cost sharing will be adjudicated in accordance with the member's benefit plan. For inpatient admissions that begin before Jan.

31, 2021, UnitedHealthcare will waive cost sharing for COVID-19 treatment until the patient is discharged. Implementation for self-funded customers may vary. Cost share waivers for outpatient treatment, with the exception of monoclonal antibody treatment, ended on Dec. 31, 2020 as previously communicated.

Five states currently require fully insured health plans to waive cost sharing for in-network visits for inpatient and outpatient COVID-19 treatment through future dates. Specifically:

- [District of Columbia](#) – March 31, 2021
- [Indiana](#) – Ongoing
- [Massachusetts](#) – Ongoing
- [New Mexico](#) – Ongoing
- [Vermont](#) – July 1, 2021

For Indiana, Massachusetts and New Mexico, the state's COVID-19 state of emergency declaration (or equivalent) does not currently have an end date. The state will determine and announce the timeline for their temporary measures.

Monoclonal antibody treatment

Medicare Advantage

For Medicare Advantage health plans, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) will reimburse claims for Medicare beneficiaries with no cost share (copayment, coinsurance or deductible) through 2021.

[Claims for COVID-19 monoclonal antibody infusion](#) should be submitted to the MAC.

Any infusion-related claims for Medicare beneficiaries that are submitted to UnitedHealthcare will be denied, and health care professionals will be directed to submit the claims to the MAC.

Medicaid

State requirements for the coverage of monoclonal antibody treatment apply. Please check your state-specific website or your [state's](#) UnitedHealthcare Community Plan page for more

information.

Individual and Group Market health plans

For Individual Exchange, Individual and Group Market health plans, UnitedHealthcare will waive cost sharing for the administration of monoclonal antibody treatments for in-network providers in outpatient settings through Feb. 28, 2021. The cost share waiver was previously set to expire on Jan. 31, 2021.

When COVID-19 monoclonal antibody doses are provided by the U.S. government without charge, providers should only bill for the [administration of the treatment](#). Health care providers should not include the monoclonal antibody codes on the claim when the product is provided for free.

Implementation for self-funded customers may vary.

Temporary SNF prior authorization suppression ends Jan. 31, 2021

The temporary suspension of prior authorization requirements for inpatient admissions to in-network skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) ends on Jan. 31, 2021, except for select markets that are being communicated to directly. This temporary suspension applies to Medicare Advantage, Medicaid and Individual and Group Market health plan members nationwide.

Vaccine administration billing and reimbursement

To help you manage the claim submission and reimbursement process for COVID-19 vaccine administration, our COVID-19 resource site has been updated with expanded

[billing and reimbursement information](#). This includes American Medical Association (AMA) CPT® coding guidance for medical claims and National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) information for pharmacists who administer the vaccine. As new information becomes available, this site and the resource materials will be updated.

We encourage you to review the site for complete information, including these resources:

- [Summary of COVID-19 temporary program provisions](#): Summary of temporary provisions put in place by UnitedHealthcare
- [Self-paced online course](#): Step-by-step COVID-19 vaccine administration billing and reimbursement instructions
- [COVID-19 billing guide](#): The latest information related to vaccine administration billing and reimbursement

Reminder: You should not bill UnitedHealthcare members at the time of service for any costs associated with the COVID-19 vaccine. Claims for vaccine administration should be submitted as [outlined](#), based on the member's benefit plan. There is no cost to the member for the COVID-19 vaccine, and most plans are covering the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost share for the member.

Please check UHCprovider.com/COVID19 for detailed information about COVID-19 testing, treatment, telehealth, vaccines, billing and more.

Thank you again for your continuous efforts to keep our members and your patients healthy and informed.