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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Updates for Cigna-Participating Providers** | |  | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | |  | **COVID-19 UPDATE** |  | | April 2022 |  | | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Period Extended Through July 14, 2022** | |  | |

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we have taken important steps to deliver timely accommodations to providers and customers, helping to ensure that customers have continued access to COVID-19 diagnostic services, testing, and treatment in safe settings.

**Extension of public health emergency period**

To align with the recent [extension](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faspr.hhs.gov%2Flegal%2FPHE%2FPages%2FCOVID19-12Apr2022.aspx&data=05%7C01%7CMelissa.Zeller%40mercy.net%7C088da297685944efc4c608da2306ddaf%7Cf1afa14862d1472cb26d4c1cfdcaa997%7C0%7C0%7C637860809658858066%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lc9SF7ba%2BceJZtTFDmAetOlJDkqVI8m0e1wlycA%2Fqko%3D&reserved=0) of the federal public health emergency (PHE) period, we are again extending the cost-share waiver for diagnostic COVID-19 testing and testing-related services through July 14, 2022 for individuals with Cigna commercial and Cigna Medicare Advantage benefit plans.

Other accommodations, including those related to credentialing and virtual care, also continue to remain in effect until further notice.

**Over-the-counter testing**

***For patients with a Cigna commercial benefit plan***

* Cigna commercial covers up to eight over-the-counter (OTC) diagnostic COVID-19 tests per month (per enrolled individual) with no out-of-pocket costs for the tests.
* With the extension of the PHE, this coverage now also continues through July 14, 2022.
* This coverage allows your patients with a Cigna commercial benefit plan to purchase tests directly from retailers and seek reimbursement directly from Cigna for their out-of-pocket cost.

***For patients with a Cigna Medicare Advantage benefit plan***

* While costs of at-home COVID-19 tests are not a covered benefit through Cigna Medicare Advantage, CMS recently [published](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cms.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Ffact-sheets%2Fmedicare-covers-over-counter-covid-19-tests&data=05%7C01%7CMelissa.Zeller%40mercy.net%7C088da297685944efc4c608da2306ddaf%7Cf1afa14862d1472cb26d4c1cfdcaa997%7C0%7C0%7C637860809658858066%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PIJ4Cw4YTi3PUtIP3nNJDr9NXBJ2yOvqYN9hisTxG9o%3D&reserved=0) additional details about their new initiative to cover OTC COVID-19 tests at no cost for individuals with Medicare coverage.
* As of April 4, 2022, individuals with Medicare Part B and Medicare Advantage plans can get up to eight OTC tests per calendar month from participating pharmacies and health care providers for the duration of the PHE period.
* This new initiative enables payment from original Medicare directly to participating eligible pharmacies and other health care providers for claims they submit.
* For more information, including details on how you can get reimbursed for these tests from original Medicare when you directly supply them to your patients with Part B or Medicare Advantage plans, please [review the CMS guidance](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cms.gov%2FCOVIDOTCtestsProvider&data=05%7C01%7CMelissa.Zeller%40mercy.net%7C088da297685944efc4c608da2306ddaf%7Cf1afa14862d1472cb26d4c1cfdcaa997%7C0%7C0%7C637860809658858066%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UtYuGLR5ykNudMfdB4%2FxKGAMQFNC4S3o2uXa4dDT1eg%3D&reserved=0).

**Get all the most up-to-date information**

We updated our dedicated [COVID-19 provider web page](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstatic.cigna.com%2Fassets%2Fchcp%2FresourceLibrary%2FmedicalResourcesList%2FmedicalDoingBusinessWithCigna%2FmedicalDbwcCOVID-19.html&data=05%7C01%7CMelissa.Zeller%40mercy.net%7C088da297685944efc4c608da2306ddaf%7Cf1afa14862d1472cb26d4c1cfdcaa997%7C0%7C0%7C637860809658858066%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GGlc7QPMG0nje52wqLxd%2B8EFf3a8uWsmkda2rubXfDc%3D&reserved=0) on     April 18, 2022 to highlight these updates and more. You can also access the latest Cigna Medicare Advantage billing guidelines from this page. I encourage you to visit the site to get the latest information.

**Thank you again for the quality care you provide and for all that you’re doing to help our customers.**

If you have questions about how Cigna is responding to COVID-19, please contact me directly anytime