

FLORIDA MEDICAID

A Division of the Agency for Health Care Administration

Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert

March 13, 2020

Provider Type(s): All

Update: Medicaid Coverage of Coronavirus Laboratory Testing

The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) is committed to ensuring that Medicaid recipients diagnosed with the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) receive all the care needed to address their symptoms. **Florida Medicaid covers and will cover all medically necessary services required to facilitate testing and treatment of COVID-19.** The purpose of this alert is to provide updated guidance related Florida Medicaid coverage of laboratory testing.

Laboratory Test Coverage

Florida Medicaid covers testing for COVID-19 consistent with the guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

State Laboratories

- The Florida Department of Health (Department) is supporting the public health response by covering priority laboratory testing through the state laboratories.
- There is no cost to providers for the laboratory test.
- Providers should work with their local County Health Department for submission of priority lab specimens to the closest state laboratory for testing, according to the Department's criteria for at risk individuals only.
- For Florida Medicaid recipients, the Agency covers the cost of specimen collection.

Independent Laboratories

- Laboratory Corporation of America ([LabCorp](#)) and [Quest Diagnostics \(Quest\)](#) have initiated testing services for COVID-19 on specimens received from providers for Persons Under Investigation, utilizing CDC risk [criteria](#). These laboratories are not collecting specimens directly. Providers should **not** send patients to any LabCorp or Quest location to have a specimen collected. Instead, specimens are to be collected at healthcare facilities, such as hospitals and physician offices, and sent to Quest or LabCorp using standard procedures.

- Florida Medicaid already covers the physician visit or hospital stay where the specimen is collected.
- Beginning March 16, 2020, Florida Medicaid will cover procedure codes U0001 and U0002 for any at-risk Florida Medicaid recipient consistent with the [CDC guidelines](#), for dates of service on or after February 4, 2020.
- Florida Medicaid fee-for-service will reimburse \$35.92 for procedure code U0001 and \$51.33 for procedure code U0002. Providers should work with Medicaid health plans to determine the reimbursement rates for these procedure codes for Medicaid recipients enrolled in plans.
- As specified by CMS, these type of laboratory assays that have been authorized for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration remain subject to CLIA regulations.

Additional Information

- For more information, visit the Department's COVID-19 website: www.flhealth.gov/COVID-19
- If you have fee-for-service coverage questions, please contact the Florida Medicaid Helpline at 1-877-254-1055.
- If you have health plan coverage questions, please contact the health plan directly.

The Agency will continue to provide more information as it becomes available.