



**WellFirst Health™**

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WellFirst Health is taking measures to support our valued in-network providers who are caring for our members amid concerns of the coronavirus COVID-19 spreading in our area.

### **WellFirst Health's COVID-19 Approach**

In alignment with COVID-19-related federal and state regulations, WellFirst Health is implementing \$0 member cost share and removing authorization requirements for certain services, operationalizing temporary policies, and increasing network adequacy monitoring, as outlined in this notification. Our intention is to remove potential barriers and delays to COVID-19 testing and treatment across all WellFirst Health product lines.

### **WellFirst Health's COVID-19 Policies**

#### **Covered Services at \$0 Cost Share**

WellFirst Health is waiving copayments and cost sharing for diagnostic screenings and associated Evaluation and Management (E&M) services related to COVID-19. There will be no member out-of-pocket costs for all products, including ACA Individual and SSM Health Employee Health Plan.

#### **COVID-19 Codes**

WellFirst Health is complying with CMS coding guidelines for COVID-19 testing.

On April 1, 2020, WellFirst Health will accept the following CMS-developed HCPCS code on claims and will allow dates of service back to February 4, 2020:

- U0002 — 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets)

Per Medicare guidance, we request that providers not submit COVID-19 claims until April 1, 2020.

Note: CMS also developed U0001 — 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR. This code is to be used when specimens are sent to the CDC and CDC-approved local/state health department laboratories. We do not anticipate a need to receive these codes at this time as the government is testing at no cost.

Effective October 1, 2020, a new ICD-10 CM may be used to report 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease, U07.1. Prior October 1, 2020, the common diagnosis codes include:

#### **Screening for COVID-19**

- Z03.818 - Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out
- Z20.828 - Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases.

#### **Signs and Symptoms**

- For patients presenting with any signs/symptoms (such as fever, etc.) and where a definitive diagnosis has not been established, assign the appropriate code(s) for each of

- the presenting signs and symptoms such as:
  - R05 Cough
  - R06.02 Shortness of breath
  - R50.9 Fever, unspecified

Pneumonia due to COVID-19

- J12.89 – other viral pneumonia, *and*
- B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

Acute Bronchitis due to COVID-19

- J20.8 - Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms, *and*
- B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

Lower Respiratory Infection due to COVID-19

- J22 - Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection, *and*
- B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

ARDS due to COVID-19

- J80 - Acute respiratory distress syndrome, *and*
- B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

Note: Diagnosis code B34.2, Coronavirus infection, unspecified, would in generally not be appropriate for the COVID-19, because the cases have universally been respiratory in nature, so the site would not be “unspecified.”

**Prior Authorization Requirements**

WellFirst Health is waiving authorizations for diagnostic services related to COVID-19 testing.

We are temporarily removing the prior authorization requirement for CT Chest Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 71250 for chest scans when the primary reason for the chest scan is related to COVID-19.

**FDA-Approved Labs**

Providers who are not equipped to handle COVID-19 patient inquiries or collect specimens for testing can contact us for the nearest in-network provider at [ProviderRelations@wellfirstbenefits.com](mailto:ProviderRelations@wellfirstbenefits.com).

Providers who do not have access to a qualifying laboratory for COVID-19 testing can contact one of the following in-network FDA-approved laboratories:

- State Lab
- Quest Diagnostics
- LabCorp

**Contracting and Reimbursement**

WellFirst Health will not be amending contracts for COVID-19 measures. We will add applicable COVID-19 codes to all appropriate fee schedules.

## **WellFirst Health Ongoing**

### **Network Adequacy**

WellFirst Health will regularly poll providers to monitor network adequacy related to provider availability for needed COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment. We ask for your prompt response to these inquiries.

### **Communication**

WellFirst Health is continuing to monitor COVID-19 and will notify providers of new measures or updated health plan information based on any new developments. We are developing a COVID-19 specific web page for providers that will be linked from your health plan provider web page. We encourage you to check our web page regularly.

Our clinical team is actively monitoring external queries and reports from the CDC to help us determine what actions are necessary on our part to further support our providers.

If you have questions regarding this update, please contact your Provider Network Consultant directly and email your question to [ProviderRelations@wellfirstbenefits.com](mailto:ProviderRelations@wellfirstbenefits.com) to facilitate a prompt reply.