Over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests covered for Apple Health (Medicaid) clients

Apple Health (Medicaid) covers over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests with or without a prescription for clients. An adjudicated pharmacy claim is required for reimbursement of an OTC COVID-19 test. Pharmacies may not bill for test administration of an OTC COVID-19 test; these tests should be used by the patient in the home setting.

To bill the OTC COVID-19 tests, pharmacies must follow the NCPDP standard and use the national drug code (NDC) or universal product code (UPC) found on the package.

No Prescription
When there is no prescription:
- For clients in managed care, contact the client's managed care plan for billing instructions.
- For fee-for-service clients, pharmacies must use the following prescriber information:
    - Prescriber ID Qualifier (466-EZ): 01
    - Prescriber ID (407-D7): 5123456787
    - Prescriber last name: OTC PRODUCT

Limitations
The following limits apply for OTC COVID-19 tests billed with or without a prescription:
- A total of 12 tests, per client, per month
- If additional tests are needed:
    - For clients in managed care, contact the client's managed care plan
    - For fee-for-service clients, pharmacy providers can submit a prior authorization request to HCA. Please see the Prescription Drug Program billing guide for information on how to obtain a authorization.

Claims can be processed using single packs (1 test) or multi-pack test kits (2 tests), equaling a total 12 OTC COVID-19 tests per month. As an example:
- 1 Single pack kit (1 test) – allows 12 kits per calendar month
- 1 Multi pack kit (2 tests) – allows 6 kits per calendar month

Additional information

- For more information about COVID-19 testing, see the Apple Health (Medicaid) clinical policy and billing for COVID-19 FAQ and the Apple Health (Medicaid) COVID-19 testing clinical policy.
- For updated information regarding COVID-19, see HCA's Information about novel coronavirus (COVID-19) webpage.
- For additional questions, please email applehealthpharmacypolicy@hca.wa.gov