



State of Vermont

Agency of Human Services

Department of Vermont Health Access

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

September 21, 2020

****Attention Pharmacies and Pharmacists****

Important Information about COVID-19 Specimen Collection by Pharmacists

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and to ensure that Vermont Medicaid members have adequate access to COVID-19 testing, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is implementing changes to support specimen collection by pharmacists for COVID-19 testing. In addition, since pharmacists are authorized to order and administer COVID-19 tests in accordance with their scope of practice and state and federal law, pharmacists performing specimen collection must enroll with Vermont Medicaid as ordering providers.

Currently, based on state guidance, we are only reimbursing pharmacies for specimen collection at this time. Pharmacies may bill for specimen collection beginning October 1, 2020 for dates of service on or after September 1, 2020. COVID-19 testing and specimen collection must be in accordance with the Vermont Board of Pharmacy Emergency Guidance, <https://sos.vermont.gov/media/lz2igik4/pharmacy-emergency-guidance.pdf> and the Vermont Department of Health’s clinical guidance for medical appropriateness of testing: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-HAN-Pharmacists-COVID-19Testing.pdf>

Reimbursement/Billing:

Reimbursement for COVID-19 specimen collection by pharmacies will use the same methodology and rate as the newly established specimen collection code (G2023) for clinical diagnostic laboratories in the clinical laboratory fee schedule. Reimbursement is \$23.46 for the specimen collection. There is no reimbursement for the ingredient cost of the test and no dispensing fee is paid for these claims. Through the pharmacy POS system, the pharmacy must submit the code “MA” in the Professional Service Code field for the claim to receive full reimbursement. **Please note there is NO member copay for COVID-19 specimen collection.**

Required NCPDP Fields		
<u>NCPDP Field Number</u>	<u>NCPDP Field Description</u>	<u>Required Code</u>
411-DB	Prescriber ID	Pharmacist NPI
44Ø-E5	Professional Service Code	MA
4Ø7-D7	Product/Service ID	NDC Number for COVID-19 Specimen Collection 99999-0992-11

Pharmacist Enrollment: To enroll as a provider, please follow the instructions below:

1. Visit <https://vermont.hppcloud.com/Home/Index/>
2. Click “Menu” on the top left-hand corner of the screen
3. Select Provider Enrollment and then New Enrollment
4. Fill out the enrollment form and click submit
5. Informational Provider Management Module training can be found by clicking <http://www.vtmedicaid.com/#/provEnrollResources>

For questions regarding this benefit, please contact the Change Healthcare Pharmacy Help Desk at 1-844-679-5362. Vermont providers can also send inquiries via email to PBA_VTHelpdesk@changehealthcare.com

Questions related to Provider Enrollment should be directed to: vtproviderenrollment@dxc.com or call 802-879-4450, option 4.

Thank you for your continued support of Vermont’s pharmacy benefits programs.

Nancy J. Hogue, Pharm.D.

Director of Pharmacy Services