

ProviderAlert

To: Select Health of South Carolina (SHSC) Participating Providers
From: Select Health Provider Network Management
Date: March 20, 2020
Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Summary: SHSC is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for the latest information about COVID-19, and is actively engaged in making the necessary plans based on this guidance. Select Health recommends that providers follow CDC, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and state-specific guidance with regard to COVID-19 evaluation, testing, diagnosis, treatment, and reporting.

As a part of the state's preparation and response to COVID-19, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has announced several temporary policy changes to protect the health and well-being of South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid members to help ensure ongoing access to care.

Select Health is in the process of implementing the following changes to align with SCDHHS:

COVID-19 testing and codes

Select Health will cover will cover testing and medically necessary treatment of COVID-19 for its eligible First Choice plan members, in accordance with federal and state guidance.

No prior authorization or copay is required for COVID-19 testing for dates of service on or after February 4, 2020, for participating or non-participating providers.

Coronavirus testing codes are as follows:

- **U0001**- CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel.
- **U0002**- Coronavirus (COVID-19) for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019.

CDC Links for more information:

- [Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\).](#)
- [Coding encounters related to COVID-19.](#)

Waiver of Patient Cost Share

- In accordance with SCDHHS guidelines, SHSC will waive co-payments for evaluation and management (E/M) code range 99201-99499 for dates of service on or after March 15, 2020.
- A link to provider manuals, fee schedules, and schedule of copayments can be found [here on SCDHHS' website](#).

Pharmacy Benefit

- SHSC will waive early refill edits for non-opioid/non-controlled prescriptions for dates of service on or after March 15, 2020.
- For medications that require a prior authorization, members will be allowed a 72-hour supply while the prior authorization request is being processed.
- Use of out-of-network pharmacies is authorized when access to in-network pharmacies is unavailable.

Infusion Centers

- SHSC will waive the requirement that direct supervision by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant be provided for care delivered in infusion centers for dates of service on or after March 15, 2020.
- All other infusion center billing requirements continue to apply.

Enhanced Telehealth coverage – information is forthcoming.

If you suspect you or a patient has COVID-19

The CDC instructs providers to consult with local or state health departments to determine whether patients meet [criteria for a Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\)](#). Providers should immediately notify infection control personnel at their facility if they suspect COVID-19 in a patient. Please notify your state or local health department if a patient is classified as a PUI for COVID-19.

According to the CDC, providers should report recognized exposures, regularly monitor themselves for fever and symptoms of respiratory infection, and not report to work when ill. Providers in low-, medium-, or high-risk exposure categories who develop signs or symptoms compatible with COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to contact their established point of contact (public health authorities or their facility's occupational health program) for medical evaluation prior to returning to work.

CDC Links for more information

- [CDC: Healthcare Professionals: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.](#)
- [Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\).](#)

If you need to close your office

Select Health is committed to helping ensure members' access to care. In the event of an office closure, please direct your patients who are First Choice plan members to call First Choice Member Services at **1-888-276-2020**. We have tools in place to connect members to alternate providers who can support their continued care.

For more resources and guidance, please access:

- [CDC COVID-19 homepage.](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)/SCDHEC](#)
- [Important Information Regarding COVID-19/selecthealthofsc.com](#)

If you have additional questions or concerns, contact your Network Management [provider account executives](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and for the valuable services you provide our First Choice members.