

March 20, 2020

Billing for COVID-19 Alternate Screening Sites

As the issues surrounding the COVID-19 disaster declaration in Pennsylvania continue to evolve, it is important that we keep you up to date on items that effect how to bill for COVID-19 related claims. Below is guidance for submitting claims for COVID-19 alternative screening sites for hospitals and community providers.

On March 9th, CMS issued a Memorandum regarding “Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) [Requirements and Implications Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#), which applies to both Medicare and Medicaid providers.

The memorandum discussed a hospital’s options to mitigate exposure to COVID-19 and set up alternative screening sites both on and off the hospital campus.

Hospital Alternative Screening Sites

The Pennsylvania Department of Health issued guidance on the ability of hospitals to set up alternate screening sites for COVID-19. The guidance can be found [here](#).

- Hospitals do not need to enroll their on-campus or off-campus temporary screening sites separately in the Medical Assistance (MA) program.
- Hospitals should use their existing acute care hospital enrollment (01-010) or a hospital outpatient unit (01-183) to submit claims for services performed at these on or off campus screening sites.

Community Screening Sites Not Under the Control of a Hospital

Non-hospital community providers screening sites not under the control of a hospital **do not need to enroll these sites separately**. These sites may include those being conducted by a health care provider such as:

- Independent clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHC)
- Rural Health Centers (RHC)
- Physician or physician offices
- Laboratories
- Certified registered nurse practitioners

As these sites are temporary in nature, **providers should bill from their office or clinic sites already enrolled in MA or CHIP using a place of service that best describes where the service was provided.**

This guidance will remain in effect for 90 days or while a valid disaster declaration authorized by the Governor related to the COVID-19 virus remains in effect, whichever is earlier. OMAP may re-issue these guidelines as appropriate.

See the entire Billing Guidance for Alternative Screening Sites Related to COVID-19 Notice – [Quick Tip 232](#)

Helpful Coronavirus Resources

Aetna Better Health of Pennsylvania [COVID-19 Provider Resources page](#)

Additional information is also available on the [CDC website](#) and through [CMS](#).

Information on MA Program coverage related to COVID-19, including an FAQ document and instructions regarding the procedure codes to use for COVID-19 lab screenings, can be found on the Department of Human Services website [here](#).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click [here](#) for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19

If you have any questions regarding the Aetna Better Health response to “COVID-19”, please contact your Provider Relations rep at 1-866-638-1232.