



MaineCare Coverage of COVID-19 Testing at Pharmacies

July 17, 2020

Beginning July 17, 2020, MaineCare will be able to reimburse pharmacies for specimen collection associated with COVID-19 testing for MaineCare members, including individuals covered under the [Emergency MaineCare](#) benefit, and individuals without health insurance coverage who qualify and have applied for [COVID-19 testing coverage](#). MaineCare will reimburse pharmacies with an “administration fee” of \$16.42 per specimen collection.

MaineCare will reimburse pharmacies for specimen collection only, so pharmacies must partner with either Maine’s Health Environment and Testing Lab (HETL) or with another MaineCare-enrolled lab to conduct the actual lab testing. The Department encourages pharmacies to partner with HETL, which is a MaineCare-enrolled lab.

Health and Environmental Testing Lab (HETL) Information

While most commercial pharmacies currently send specimens to one of the national laboratories for testing, many of those laboratories are experiencing significant delays in processing tests due to a greatly expanded demand for testing across the country. HETL has greatly expanded its capacity and is currently processing COVID-19 tests within 24 - 48 hours of receiving the specimen.

Pharmacies that are interested in sending COVID-19 specimens to HETL for testing will need to establish an account **prior** to submitting any samples to HETL for COVID-19 testing.

To set up an account with HETL, please fax the following information to HETL at 207-287-1727:

- Facility name
- Contact name
- Facility address
- Phone number
- Confidential fax number

HETL will contact your facility to confirm receipt of the information. Once an account is established, specimens can be forwarded to HETL. For more information about HETL, please review the Maine CDC’s Health Alert Network (HAN) [Advisory](#).

Submitting Claims

Pharmacies will be able to submit claims for COVID-19 specimen collection through the Point of Sale (POS), a system maintained by Change Healthcare, MaineCare’s Pharmacy Benefits Administrator. The POS will be ready to process these claims beginning on July 17, 2020.

MaineCare has opened the following NDCs as covered Step 4 – preferred on the MaineCare PDL:

- 11877001126 (ID NOW KIT COVID-19).
- 99999099211 (Emergency Use Product Service Identifier). The Emergency Use Product Service Identifier is a DUMMY NDC that NCPDP created so if other NDCs are unavailable to order, pharmacies may use this one.

Pharmacies must follow the instructions related to the [COVID-19 Specimen Collection Payer Sheet](#) for the system to pay correctly. Specifically, this means:

- Pharmacies must enter \$16.42 in field 426-DQ (Usual and Customary Charge) **and** field 43Ø-DU (Gross Amount Due).
- Pharmacies must use a Days Supply and Quantity equal to 1.

Please note that MaineCare’s [guidance](#) on COVID-19 testing for uninsured individuals includes information about who is eligible, what is covered, and how providers and pharmacies can help inform individuals about the benefit and encourage them to apply if they are eligible.

Click [here](#) for more information about MaineCare’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any questions on how to bill these claims, please contact the Change Healthcare at 1-888-420-9711.