March 25, 2020

North Dakota (ND) Medicaid: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

Are telemedicine visits from home covered?
Yes, ND Medicaid covers telemedicine services, including those that originate from a member's or provider's home. More information about telemedicine coverage is available in the telemedicine section of the *General Information for Providers* manual. If the member's home is used as the originating site, no originating site fee may be billed to ND Medicaid. If the visit originates from a clinic, inpatient hospital, outpatient hospital, or skilled nursing facility/nursing facility, the originating site fee may be billed to ND Medicaid.

ND Medicaid issued a temporary telemedicine policy on March 20, 2020, to allow for greater flexibility for telemedicine services during the national emergency.

Testing and Billing Information
Does ND Medicaid cover testing for COVID-19?
Yes. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for providers and laboratories to bill for the test. The American Medical Association also created a new Common Procedural Technology (CPT™) code for testing. The new HCPCS and CPT™ codes will be available for billing on April 1, 2020.

What code should providers use to bill testing for COVID-19?
Providers should use the newly designated HCPCS code U0001 to bill for testing for COVID-19 using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019) Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR diagnostic test panel. HCPCS code U0002 can be used by laboratories and healthcare facilities to bill for testing using any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets). ND Medicaid will accept these codes after April 1, 2020 for services provided on or after February 4, 2020.

ND Medicaid will also cover 87635 for COVID-19 testing. ND Medicaid will accept this code after April 1, 2020 for services provided on or after March 13, 2020.

ND Medicaid will also cover U0003 and U0004 for high throughput testing. U0003 can be used by laboratories and healthcare facilities using the amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R. U0004 can be used by laboratories and healthcare facilities using any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R. ND Medicaid accept this code after April 23, 2020 for services provided on or after April 14, 2020.

What is the reimbursement rate for the test for COVID-19?
ND Medicaid developed a rate for COVID-19 testing based on the established Medicare rates. ND Medicaid will reimburse $35.91 for U0001; $51.31 for U0002; $100 for U0003; $100 for U0004; and $51.31 for 87635.

Will the testing codes for COVID-19 be available retroactively for billing?
Yes. ND Medicaid will follow Medicare's policy and make codes U0001 and U0002 retroactively effective to service date February 4, 2020 and code 87635 retroactively effective to service date March 13, 2020. The codes will not be available to be billed to ND Medicaid until after April 1, 2020.

U0003 and U0004 can be retroactively billed to ND Medicaid for service dates on or after April 14, 2020.

What ICD-10 code should providers use to indicate a patient has a diagnosis of COVID-19?
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued interim guidance relating to coding for COVID-19 related illness: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/ICD-10-CM-Official-Coding-Gudance-Interim-Advice-coronavirus-feb-20-2020.pdf.

Are FQHCs able to bill North Dakota Medicaid for the collection of COVID-19 test specimens when there is no other service rendered to the member?
Yes, during the national health emergency period, FQHCs may bill North Dakota Medicaid for the collection of a COVID specimen under Revenue Code 0319 along with HCPCS code G2023 if the specimen collection is the only service provided on that date of service and will be paid at the fee-for-service rate of $23.46. If specimen collection is obtained on the same day as any other visit, it will be included in the payment for the encounter.

Are Local Public Health Units (LPHUs) able to bill ND Medicaid for the collection of COVID-19 test specimens?
Yes, during the national health emergency period, LPHUs may bill North Dakota Medicaid HCPCS code G2023 (Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov-2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19])), any specimen source and will be reimbursed at the current fee-for-service rate of $23.46.

Can ND Medicaid members get extra medicine or supplies?
ND Medicaid's dispensing limits have not changed. Medicaid members should continue to get supplies on an as-needed basis and should not stockpile medications or supplies. Providers should consider using mail and delivery to send medications and supplies to members' homes when possible.

What if a member is out of state and requires COVID-19 testing or treatment?
For providers to be reimbursed for tests and/or services provided to ND Medicaid members, the provider and agency must be enrolled with ND Medicaid. If an out of state provider needs to enroll with ND Medicaid, more information is available at http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/provider-enroll-app.html.

Other Information
If a vaccine becomes available, ND Medicaid will provide additional information on codes and pricing as it becomes available.

What is ND Medicaid doing to address COVID-19? ND Medicaid will release additional guidance in the future regarding the Department and Medicaid response to COVID-19. At this point, the Department is considering the different CMS authorities that would allow for flexibility including: 1135 waiver and changes that can be made within the current appropriation and regulations.

How are Medicaid eligibility and redeterminations being addressed?
Medicaid does not require face-to-face interviews for eligibility or redetermination. We encourage utilizing telephonic or online methods. Applications for Medicaid can be completed online at: https://www.nd.gov/dhs/eligibility/. For further information, contact your human service zone (http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/).

Where can I get information and updates about the coronavirus and COVID-19?
Information is available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

Information about North Dakota's response and updates about the coronavirus (COVID-19) is available from the North Dakota Department of Health at https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus.

ND Medicaid will not be initiating any new provider audits during the COVID-19 situation.