



DeanHealthPlan

A member of SSM Health

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Dear Dean Health Plan Provider:

Thank you for providing high-quality services to our members during the rapidly-evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. We will release a notification every Thursday to keep you informed of new and updated interim COVID-19 health plan policies to support our members and you during this time. We will communicate urgent information quickly outside of these weekly notifications, should the need arise.

This notification contains information regarding:

- Increased reimbursement for certain telephone assessment and management services.
- Health plan antibody testing update.
- New coronavirus specimen collection code.

Increased Reimbursement for Certain Telephone Assessment and Management Services

As previously communicated, Dean Health Plan is aligned with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) expanded list of services that can be rendered via telephone (audio-only) to accommodate members who don't have access to or are hesitant to use the interactive audio-video technology. Because practitioners are providing audio-only services in instances that would have been provided as in-person or telehealth visit under non-COVID-19 circumstances, CMS established new Relative Value Units (RVUs) for audio-only assessment and management services. The RVUs are based on crosswalks to the most analogous office/outpatient evaluation and management (E&M) services resulting in increased reimbursement for CPT codes 99441, 99442, and 99443. Dean Health Plan is adopting the increased reimbursement rates for these codes on claims with dates of service (DOS) on and after March 1, 2020, across all Dean Health Plan products.

Claims with DOS on and after March 1, 2020, that have already processed under the previous reimbursement rates will be reprocessed in the near future. The date for reprocessing will be communicated in an upcoming weekly COVID-19 communication.

CMS is not increasing reimbursement rates for CPT codes 98966, 98977, or 98968 because these codes describe services rendered by practitioners who cannot independently bill for E&M services. Therefore, assessment and management services cannot be provided in lieu of an office/outpatient E&M service.

Health Plan Antibody Testing Update

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital in Madison now offers [SARS CoV-2 IgG antibody testing](#). The test was developed by Abbott and its performance characteristics validated by the hospital laboratory in conjunction with other SSM ministry laboratories. The test has not been reviewed by the FDA but is allowed for use per the FDA's Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019 during the public health emergency.

Dean Health Plan does not require prior authorization for antibody testing; however, we do expect that all antibody tests be physician-ordered. Because of the variety of testing options available on the market currently, we encourage providers to know the efficacy of the antibody tests they are ordering.

Dean Health Plan allows contracted providers with their own laboratory capabilities to analyze antibody test results.

New Coronavirus Specimen Collection Code

Effective for dates of service on and after March 1, 2020, CMS established a new Level II HCPCS code for COVID-19 specimens collected during a hospital outpatient clinic visit:

- HCPCS C9803 - Hospital outpatient clinic visit specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov-2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19]), any specimen source

Effective May 1, 2020, specimen collections reported with HCPCS codes G2023 and G2024 instead of C9803 will be returned.

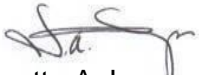
Additional Health Plan Information

For additional health plan information and previous provider communications, refer to our [COVID-19 provider information web page](#) link located at the top of all [deancare.com](#) web pages. Providers are encouraged to check our website regularly for new and updated information.

Please contact your assigned Provider Network Consultant with any questions.

Thank you again for your continued care of our members.

Sincerely,



Loretta A. Lorenzen
Vice President- Network Management & Contracting