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Provider Alert

To: Sharp Health Plan Providers
Attn: Providers and Provider Office Staff
From: Sharp Health Plan
Date: March 9, 2020
Subject: COVID-19 Screening and Testing — Waiver of Cost Share

Attention Provider Partner:

In accordance with COVID-19 guidance from the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Sharp Health Plan is reducing cost-sharing to:

- **\$0 for all medically necessary screening and testing for COVID-19 for all commercial (group, individual and Covered California) patients.**
- **\$0 for all medically necessary testing for COVID-19 for all Medicare patients.**

These cost-sharing waivers are effective immediately. Cost-sharing includes, but is not limited to, copays, deductibles and coinsurance. Medically necessary screening and testing for COVID-19 includes hospital (including emergency department), urgent care, and provider office visits for the purpose of screening and/or testing for COVID-19. Please visit the [DMHC](#) and [CMS](#) websites for additional guidance.

A new primary diagnosis code for COVID-19 will be released in October. Until then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that providers use existing ICD-10-CM codes for all primary and secondary diagnosis. You can access the [interim coding guidance from the CDC here](#). Screening claims submitted using these codes will be processed with no cost-share for your commercial patients, and testing claims submitted using these codes will be processed with no cost-share for all of your patients (both commercial and Medicare).

Please note that the [CDC distributed new guidance for identifying and evaluating patients for COVID-19](#). As the impact of COVID-19 continues to develop, please visit the CDC at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov and San Diego County's Health & Human Services Agency at sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa for the latest information.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Tuck
Manager, Network Development and Performance

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