

PROVIDER NOTICE

July 1, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19): PARAMOUNT ELITE MEDICARE AND COMMERCIAL PRODUCT LINES

Medical and Reimbursement Policy Updates


ELITE MEDICARE PRODUCT LINE:

- **Updated Medical Policy | Telehealth Services: COVID-19 Emergency, PG0474**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount has updated the expanded telehealth coverage to include Remote Patient Monitoring as recommended by CMS.
 - Paramount is expanding telehealth coverage for specific medical services when billed modifier of “GT”
 - Member cost-share will be waived for specific medical services when billed with modifier of “GT,” and one of the following COVID-19 specific ICD-10 codes in the primary location:
 - B97.29, U07.1, and Z20.828
 - Applicable to participating providers and non-participating providers (who have a participating Medicare number).
- **Reimbursement Update | Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Hospitals**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - In accordance with section 3710 of the CARES Act, Paramount will be increasing the weighting factor of the assigned Diagnosis-Related Group (DRG) by twenty (20) percent for an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 and discharged during the public health emergency period.
 - Discharges of an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 will be identified by the presence of one of the following ICD-10 diagnosis codes in the primary location:
 - B97.29, U07.1, and Z20.828.
 - Applicable only for non-contracted providers, according to the Paramount Network.
- **CMS Appeals and Initial Coverage Determination Timeframes**
 - **Effective March 13, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will work with members and providers within new CMS parameters to address appeals and coverage determinations. The link to the CMS fact sheet can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid19-emergency-declaration-health-care-providers-fact-sheet.pdf>

- **Reimbursement Update | Ambulance Response and Treatment**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will be allowing coverage for HCPCS Code A0998 for ambulance response and treatment, without transportation.
- **Medicare Sequester Suspension**
 - **Effective May 1, 2020, and through December 31, 2020.**
 - In accordance with the CARES Act, Paramount will be removing the sequester logic thereby resulting in an increase in payment rates of approximately two (2) percent more than providers would have otherwise received during this time.
- **Updated Reimbursement Policy | COVID-19 Reimbursement, RM-016**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period or as otherwise indicated within the policy.**
 - Paramount will continue to incorporate reimbursement updates related to COVID-19 within this policy. The COVID-19 reimbursement policy, when applicable, will supersede all other Paramount policies until its expiration.
 - Paramount will continue to incorporate all reimbursement updates related to COVID-19 within this policy.
- **Updated Medical Policy | COVID-19 Diagnostic Laboratory Screening/Testing, PG0469**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will extend the effective timeframe for medical policy PG0469 as it relates to Medicare Elite.
- **Updated Access to Providers | Timeframe Extension**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount Elite members can seek care for Medicare covered services from participating and non-participating providers. Claims will receive adjudication at the in-network benefit level. All providers must be a participating provider with Medicare.
- **Updated Medical Policy | Home Oxygen Therapy, PG0234**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount is extending the prior authorization waiver period for portable oxygen concentrators (HCPCS E1392) to help remove any barriers to discharging members.
- **Relaxed Refill-Too-Soon Edits | Timeframe Update**
 - **Effective March 13, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will continue to allow early refills of medications: Up to two times per medication and up to a maximum of 90 days each fill (excluding opioids and specialty medications).

COMMERCIAL PRODUCT LINE

- **Updated Medical Policy | Telehealth Services: COVID-19 Emergency, PG0475**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will be extending the effective timeframe of medical policy PG0475.
 - Paramount is expanding telehealth coverage for specific medical services when billed with modifier of “GT”
 - Member cost-share will be waived for specific medical services when billed with modifier of “GT,” and one of the following COVID-19 specific ICD-10 codes in the primary location:
 - B97.29, U07.1, and Z20.828
 - Coverage will no longer be limited to existing patients only. Paramount will be expanding coverage to include new patient visits, both asynchronous and synchronous.
 - Paramount will be removing the prior authorization requirement for covered Behavioral Health Telehealth Services.
 - Applicable to all fully-funded and exchange groups in Ohio and Michigan.
- **Updated Reimbursement Policy | COVID-19 Reimbursement, RM-016**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will continue to incorporate reimbursement updates related to COVID-19 within this policy.
- **Updated Medical Policy | COVID-19 Diagnostic Laboratory Screening/Testing, PG0469**
 - **Effective March 11, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will be expanding the effective timeframe of medical policy PG0469.
 - Applicable to all fully funded and self-funded groups.
- **Expanded Coverage for Essential Diagnostic Services | Timeframe Update**
 - **Effective March 18, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will continue to cover medical services without prior authorization when one of the following COVID-19 diagnoses are billed in the primary diagnosis location:
 - ICD-10 codes = B97.29, U07.1, and Z20.828.
 - Member cost share will be waived for all fully-funded and self-funded groups.
 - This expansion is applicable to participating and non-participating providers.
 - Non-participating providers will be reimbursed at 110% of Medicare for services covered pursuant to this waiver.
- **Updated Medical Policy | Home Oxygen Therapy**
 - **Effective March 10, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount is extending the prior authorization waiver for portable oxygen concentrators (HCPCS E1392) to help remove any barriers to discharging members.

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- **Relaxed Refill-Too-Soon Edits | Timeframe Update**
 - **Effective March 18, 2020, and through the earlier of July 31, 2020 or the extended duration of the COVID-19 emergency period.**
 - Paramount will continue to allow early refills of medications: Up to one time per medication, according to the plan benefit design (excluding C2-C5 and specialty drugs).
 - Applies to all fully funded and self-funded groups with Paramount Rx.

For more information, please reference each complete policy on our website. Visit our online medical and reimbursement policy libraries:

- paramounthealthcare.com/medicalpolicies
- paramounthealthcare.com/reimbursementpolicies

IMPORTANT: All referenced policies will be available to view on our website.

If you have questions regarding this notice, or other issues, please contact your Provider Relations Representative or call Provider Relations at 800-891-2542.

