

[Blue Cross Blue Shield - Texas](#)

Overview

March 10, 2020 through April 30, 2020

Provider Information on COVID-19 Coverage

Updated 3/27/2020

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) is covering **testing to diagnose** the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) for most members **with no prior authorization needed and no member copays or deductibles**. For **treatment of COVID-19**, we cover medically necessary health benefits, including physician services, hospitalization and emergency services consistent with the terms of each member's benefit plan. Members should always call the number on their ID card for answers to their specific benefit questions.

Note: Many of our members are covered under a health plan that is self-insured by their employer. **Some of these members may be responsible for copays or deductibles.**

Check Members Eligibility and Benefits

Use the [Availity® Provider Portal](#) or your preferred vendor to check eligibility and benefits.

Claims for COVID-19 Testing

If you test a member when it's medically necessary and consistent with CDC guidance, submit the claim to us using the appropriate code:

- HCPCS code U0002 (Non-CDC lab test)
- CPT code 87635 (American Medical Association (AMA) code for SARS-2-CoV-2 lab test)

The [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) has set the price for the COVID-19 diagnostic tests at \$51.31 for U0002 and 87635. We will follow CMS pricing and apply the terms of our contracts.

Out-of-Network Providers

If you are not in our networks, our allowed amount for U0002 is consistent with Medicare pricing.

Telemedicine and Telehealth

Many members have telehealth benefits. For those members, telehealth visits will be covered as a regular office visit for providers who offer the service through 2-way, live interactive telephone or digital video consultations. Some plans also provide access to MDLive or a similar vendor with a network of physicians who provide telehealth services. For more details, refer to the [Using Telemedicine and Telehealth in Response to COVID-19](#) article in [News and Updates](#) as well as our [Telemedicine and Telehealth Services](#) page.

Telemedicine and Telehealth Coverage Expansion in Response to COVID-19

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) is temporarily expanding coverage for medical and behavioral health telemedicine and telehealth visits. For insured plans regulated by the State of Texas – identified by a “TDI” or “DOI” printed on the member identification card – BCBSTX will cover telemedicine medical services and telehealth services in accordance with the temporary emergency rules adopted by the Texas Department of Insurance March 17, 2020.

We are continuing to evaluate the evolving state and federal legislative and regulatory landscape relating to COVID-19 and will continue to update our practices accordingly.

Expansion of telemedicine/telehealth coverage:

With the temporary enhancements to existing in-network telemedicine/telehealth benefits, the coverages below will apply for state-regulated, fully-insured members who receive covered telemedicine/telehealth services. This **applies to claims with dates of service beginning March 10, 2020.**

- Telemedicine/telehealth visits covered as a regular office visit for providers who offer the service through 2-way live interactive telephone or digital video consultations. Please note that on a temporary basis in response to COVID-19, audio-only consultations will be covered when provided in accordance with applicable regulations and rules.
- Continued access to MDLive (<https://www.mdlive.com/>) or a similar telemedicine/telehealth vendor, with a network of physicians who provide telemedicine/telehealth services.
- No member cost-sharing for covered, medically necessary medical and behavioral health services delivered via telemedicine or telehealth by a qualified in-network provider.
- BCBSTX will reimburse in-network professionals at least the same rate for a telemedicine/telehealth service as it reimburses for the same service when provided in-person, including covered mental health services.

Benefits may be different for our members covered under certain employer-funded health plans depending on the decisions their employer makes about telemedicine and telehealth services.

Resources:

For more information refer to our Telemedicine and Telehealth Services (https://www.bcbstx.com/provider/clinical/tele_services.html) page.

The following telemedicine/telehealth codes are accepted by BCBSTX for use by physicians and other health care providers including behavioral health therapy services:

Code	Description
90791*	Psych diagnostic evaluation
90792*	Psych diagnostic evaluation w/medical services
90832*	Psychotherapy 30 min
90833*	Psychotherapy 30 min w/e&m evaluation
90834*	Psychotherapy 45min
90836*	Psychotherapy 45 min w/e&m evaluation
90837*	Psychotherapy 60min
90838*	Psychotherapy 60 min w/e&m evaluation
90847*	Family psychotherapy
97151	Behavior identification assessment, administered by a phys/QHP
97152	Behavior identification-supporting assessment by 1 tech
97153	Adaptive behavior treatment by tech
97154	Group adaptive behavior treatment by tech
97155	Adaptive behavior treatment phys/QHP
97156	Family adaptive behavior treatment phys/QHP
97157	Multiple family adaptive behavior treatment
97158	Group adaptive behavior treatment phys/QHP
98966	Nonphysician telephone assessment 5-10 min
98967	Nonphysician telephone assessment 11-20 min
98968	Nonphysician telephone assessment 21-30 min
98970	QNHP online digital E/M SVC EST PT <7 D 5-10 min
98971	QNHP online digital E/M SVC EST PT <7 D 11-20 min
98972	QNHP online digital E/M SVC EST PT <7 D 21+ min
99201*	Office visit new patient
99202*	Office visit new patient
99203*	Office visit new patient
99204*	Office visit new patient
99205*	Office visit new patient
99213*	Office visit established patient 15 min
99214*	Office visit established patient 25 min
99215*	Office visit established patient 40 min
99421	Physician /Qualified Health Professional telephone evaluation 5-10 min
99422	Physician /Qualified Health Professional telephone evaluation 11-20 min

99423	Physician/Qualified Health Professional telephone evaluation 21-30 min
99441	Physician/Qualified Health Professional online digital evaluation 5-10 min
99442	Physician/Qualified Health Professional online digital evaluation 11-20 min
99443	Physician/Qualified Health Professional online digital evaluation 21-30 min

***Providers submitting claims for telemedicine/telehealth services using these codes must append with modifier 95. Updated 4/3/2020**

Note: This list is **not** inclusive of all telemedicine/telehealth codes. Other services may be eligible for telemedicine/telehealth reimbursement when billed with the appropriate CPT®/HCPCS codes and any applicable modifiers.