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DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 (EFFECTIVE 4/1/20)

NUMBER: SPECIAL COVID-19 SUPPLEMENT #6 – SUPPLEMENT FOR COVID-19 POSITIVE RECIPIENTS IN NURSING FACILITIES

TO: FEE-FOR-SERVICE NURSING FACILITY PROVIDERS AND TRICORE REFERENCE LABORATORIES

FROM: NICOLE COMEAUX, DIRECTOR, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION 

SUBJECT: COVID-19 SUPPLEMENT FOR COVID-19 POSITIVE RECIPIENTS IN NURSING FACILITIES

The purpose of this Supplement is to provide reimbursement and billing information as it relates to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and diagnosis requirements.

1. Nursing Facility Rate Increase

The Human Services Department (HSD) and Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) have been collaborating to develop an appropriate reimbursement rate for the treatment of COVID-19 positive cases in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and Nursing Facilities (NFs). The Facilities will transition COVID-19 positive members into an isolated ward/wing of the facility. This approach will result in a significant increase in overhead costs related to the COVID-19 positive members, including but not limited to disinfecting procedures, increased clinical and maintenance staffing, and additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

HSD has received approval from CMS through an Emergency State Plan Amendment (SPA # 20-0009) to temporarily increase provider reimbursement to reflect these additional expenses. This SPA authorizes payment to providers equal to a thirty percent (30%) increase to the providers' high NF rate. This rate increase will be retroactive to April 1, 2020, for both Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) and Centennial Care members. For FFS, the NF rate increase will be effective through September 30, 2020. For Centennial Care members, the rate increase will be effective through June 30, 2020.

Effective for services on and after April 1, 2020, a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 should be reported with a diagnosis code U07.1, COVID-19 or U07.2 on the claim to specifically identify COVID-19 positive members. Assignment of this code is applicable to positive COVID-19 test results and presumptive positive COVID-19 test results. Please refer to the CDC's ICD-10-CM Official Coding and Reporting Guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/COVID-19-guidelines-final.pdf> for further guidance. The Medical Assistance Division (MAD) will establish a post payment adjustment process that will identify these COVID positive related stays so that the provider will be reimbursed the additional 30 percent.

2. COVID-19 Testing in Nursing Facilities

HSD will reimburse fee-for-service Medicaid enrolled SNF/NFs for specimen collection for all Medicaid recipients performed by SNF/NF staff. The COVID-19 tests performed in SNF/NFs shall not require the recipient to be symptomatic nor do they require a provider referral. COVID-19 tests will be required to be delivered to and processed at TriCore Reference Laboratories. HSD will reimburse TriCore Reference Laboratories directly for the services. See Special COVID-19 LOD #8 Testing and Treatment Services and Codes for laboratory codes and associated rates. Please use the appropriate code for COVID-19 tests done in nursing facilities.

Please refer to TriCore Reference Laboratories website for guidance regarding sending specimens to the lab. The guidance can be accessed at http://www.TriCore.org/covid_19.

Thank you for your service to New Mexicans during this emergency pandemic. This COVID-19 Supplement will sunset when the Human Services Department determines that the national public health emergency associated with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been contained. Please contact the Medical Assistance Division (505) 827-6252 or MADInfo.HSD@state.nm.us if you have any questions regarding this guidance.