

AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus

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AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus continues to monitor the latest information regarding COVID-19, and is engaged in making the necessary plans based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus recommends that providers follow CDC, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and state-specific guidance with regard to COVID-19 evaluation, testing, diagnosis, treatment, and reporting.

COVID-19 testing.

AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus will cover all medically necessary services required to facilitate testing and treatment of COVID-19 for its eligible members, in accordance with federal and state guidance. No prior authorization is required for COVID-19 testing. Coronavirus testing codes follow:

- **U0001**- CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel.
- **U0002**- Coronavirus (COVID-19) for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019.

CDC Links for more information:

[Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\).](#)

[Coding encounters related to COVID-19.](#)

Expanded telemedicine services.

AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus will expand telemedicine in compliance with new CMS guidance. Effective March 6, 2020 the following services will be covered:

- Telehealth – current coverage will apply, but will now apply to **all** areas (not just rural) of the country in **all** settings, including the home.
- Virtual Check-ins - In **all** areas (not just rural), established Medicare patients in their home may have a brief communication service with practitioners via a number of communication technology modalities including synchronous discussion over a telephone or exchange of information through video or image. The HCPCS code for video/image modality is G2010, and for telephone modality is G2012.
- E-Visits - In **all** types of locations including the patient's home, and in **all** areas (not just rural), established Medicare patients may have non-face-to-face patient-initiated communications with their provider without going to the provider's office by using online patient portals. The E-Visit CPT codes are 99421-99423 and HCPCS codes G2061-G2063, which are to be used as applicable.

Please note - The HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced on March 17, 2020 that it will waive potential HIPAA penalties for good faith use of telehealth during the nationwide public health emergency due to COVID-19. Under OCR's notice, covered health care providers may use popular applications that allow for video chats, including Apple FaceTime, Facebook Messenger video chat, Google Hangouts video, or Skype, to provide telehealth without risk that OCR might seek to impose a penalty for noncompliance with the HIPAA Rules related to the good faith provision of telehealth during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. Providers are encouraged to notify patients that these third-party applications potentially introduce privacy risks, and providers should enable all available encryption and privacy modes when using such applications. Under this Notice, however,



Facebook Live, Twitch, TikTok, and similar video communication applications are public facing, and should not be used in the provision of telehealth by covered health care providers. For more information: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/index.html>.

If your office is closing for an extended period of time and not offering virtual, telephonic, or web-based visits, please direct your patients who are our members to contact AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus Member Services at 1-888-667-0318. We have tools in place to connect members to alternate providers who can support their continued care. Members can receive additional support by calling our 24/7 Nurse Call Line at 1-855-843-1145.

If you suspect you or a patient has COVID-19.

The CDC instructs providers to consult with local or state health departments to determine whether patients meet [criteria for a Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\)](#). Providers should immediately notify infection control personnel at their facility if they suspect COVID-19 in a patient. Please notify your state or local health department if a patient is classified as a PUI for COVID-19.

Providers should report recognized exposures, regularly monitor themselves for fever and symptoms of respiratory infection, and not report to work when ill. Providers in low-, medium-, or high-risk exposure categories who develop signs or symptoms compatible with COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to contact their established point of contact (public health authorities or their facility's occupational health program) for medical evaluation prior to returning to work.

CDC Links for more information:

[CDC: Healthcare Professionals: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.](#)
[Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\).](#)

For more resources and guidance, please access the [CDC COVID-19 homepage](#).