



Date: June 8, 2020

To: Coordinated care organizations (CCOs)
Enrolled Oregon Health Plan providers

From: Lori Coyner, Medicaid Director

Subject: OHP coverage of COVID-19 antibody testing

During the COVID-19 emergency, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will only cover COVID-19 antibody testing (also known as serology testing) to diagnose SARS-CoV-2 when such testing:

- Uses tests that have FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or FDA approval; **and**
- Is to evaluate a hospitalized person under age 21 for possible multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C).

The Oregon Health Authority is using authorities granted under [Oregon Administrative Rule 410-120-0011](#) (Effect of COVID-19 Emergency Authorities on Administrative Rules) to apply this coverage criteria to COVID-19 antibody testing for all OHP members.

Why is this happening?

The [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) grants state Medicaid programs certain flexibilities in covering COVID-19 antibody testing. These flexibilities include:

- Using controls to ensure the clinically appropriate use of antibody/serology testing.
- Collecting tests at sites other than doctors' offices or clinics (e.g., parking lots).

The recent Centers for Disease Control [Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing](#) state that until more information is available about the dynamics of IgA detection in serum, testing for IgA antibodies is not recommended. In addition, antibody tests should not be used to:

- Determine immune status in individuals until the presence, durability, and duration of immunity is established,
- Make decisions about grouping persons residing in or being admitted to congregate settings, such as schools, dormitories, or correctional facilities, or
- Make decisions about returning persons to the workplace.

As evidence emerges about the utility of antibody/serology testing, [the Health Evidence Review Commission](#) will continue to review research and technology advances before issuing formal coverage guidelines, if appropriate, later this year.

What should you do?

For antibody tests meeting OHA's criteria, providers and CCOs may use the following codes for billing. These codes are in the Diagnostic Procedures Group, effective April 10, 2020, paid at the indicated rates:

Code	Description	Rate
86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	\$45.23
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	\$42.13

Questions?

For more questions or additional guidance from OHA, please contact COVID.19@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and the services you provide to our members.