

PEIA Policy for COVID-19

3/10/2020 (Latest update 4/3/2023)

Effective until end of COVID-19 emergency period unless an end date is specifically indicated in the policy.

Effective 5/11/2023, the public health emergency period will end. This policy will also terminate on that date. Notes have been added to indicate how benefits will be administered from that date forward.

Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus designated SARS-CoV-2. The outbreak of COVID-19 originated in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. With thousands of confirmed cases being reported in a rapidly growing number of countries worldwide and the number of national cases growing, the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) is establishing this policy to support the health and safety of our members.

Diagnosis, Testing, and Immunizations

Effective 5/11/2023, Covid testing will be subject to the deductible and coinsurance of the member's plan.

Effective with date of service 2/04/2020 and after, PEIA will cover COVID-19 testing, at a network provider, at 100% of the contracted allowance, for members who meet CDC guidelines for testing. This will apply to PEIA PPB plans A, B, C and D. This means the members will have no deductible or coinsurance for the actual test. Deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance will also be waived for any physician or facility services incurred in the process of being tested.

Effective 5/11/2023, Covid immunizations and administration fees will continue to be covered at 100% if administered in accordance with the CDC guidelines.

The COVID immunization and administration fee will also be covered at 100% of the fee allowance for all members. This will apply to all PEIA PPB plans A, B, C, and D.

Treatment of any members who test positive for the virus will be covered at normal benefit levels.

Fee Allowances

Fee schedules will be updated annually as part of the regular fee schedule updates.

Code	Fee Allowance	Effective	Description	
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0001A	\$	40.00	12/11/2020	Pfizer	Administration 1 st dose
0002A	\$	40.00	3/15/2021	Pfizer	Administration 2 nd dose
0003A	\$	40.00	8/1/2021	Pfizer	Administration 3 rd dose
0004A	\$	40.00	09/22/2021	Pfizer	Administration Booster
0071A	\$	40.00	10/29/2021	Pfizer	Administration Pediatric (1 st)
0072A	\$	40.00	10/29/2021	Pfizer	Administration Pediatric (2 nd)
0073A	\$	40.00	1/3/2022	Pfizer	Administration Pediatric (3 rd)
0074A	\$	40.00	3/15/2021	Pfizer	Administration Peds Booster
0081A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Pfizer	Administration 6m-4y
0082A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Pfizer	Administration 6m-4 y (2 nd)
0083A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Pfizer	Administration 6m-4y (3 rd)
0051A	\$	40.00	1/3/2022	Pfizer(mod formula)	Administration 1 st dose
0052A	\$	40.00	1/3/2022	Pfizer(mod formula)	Administration 2 nd dose
0053A	\$	40.00	1/3/2022	Pfizer(mod formula)	Administration 3 rd dose
0054A	\$	40.00	1/3/2022	Pfizer(mod formula)	Administration Booster
0124A	\$	40.00	8/31/2022	Pfizer	Booster
0011A	\$	40.00	3/15/2021	Moderna	Administration 1 st dose
0012A	\$	40.00	3/15/2021	Moderna	Administration 2 nd dose
0013A	\$	40.00	8/1/2021	Moderna	Administration 3 rd dose
0064A	\$	40.00	10/20/2021	Moderna	Administration Booster (1 st)
0094A	\$	40.00	3/29/2022	Moderna	Administration Booster(2 nd)
0091A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Moderna	Administration 6y-11y
0092A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Moderna	Administration 6y-11y (2 nd)
0093A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Moderna	Administration 6y-11y (3 rd)
0111A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Moderna	Administration Pediatric (1 st)
0112A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Moderna	Administration Pediatric (2 nd)
0113A	\$	40.00	6/17/2022	Moderna	Administration Pediatric (3 rd)
0134A	\$	40.00	8/31/2022	Moderna	Administration Booster
0031A	\$	40.00	3/15/2021	Jansen	Administration Single Dose
0034A	\$	40.00	11/1/2021	Jansen	Administration Booster
0021A	\$	40.00	TBD	AstraZeneca	Administration 1 st dose
0022A	\$	40.00	TBD	AstraZeneca	Administration 2 nd dose
0041A	\$	40.00	7/13/2022	Novavax	Administration 1 st dose
0042A	\$	40.00	7/13/2022	Novavax	Administration 2 nd dose
M0239	\$	309.60	5/6/2021	Antibodies	Code no longer active
M0243	\$	450.00	5/6/2021	Antibodies	
M0244	\$	750.00	5/6/2021	Antibodies	
M0245	\$	450.00	5/6/2021	Antibodies	
M0247	\$	450.00	5/6/2021	Antibodies	
M0249	\$	450.00	8/1/2021	Antibodies	
M0250	\$	450.00	8/1/2021	Antibodies	
M0220	\$	150.50	1/1/2022	Antibodies	
M0221	\$	250.50	1/1/2022	Antibodies	
M0222	\$	350.50	2/1/2022	Antibodies	
M0223	\$	550.50	2/1/2022	Antibodies	
Q0222	\$	2394.00	8/15/2022	Antibodies	

Q0247	\$	2394.00	5/26/2021	Antibodies	
Q0249	\$	6.57	8/1/2021	Antibodies	

Temporary Expansion of Telemedicine Benefit

Telemedicine services will continue to be allowed if they are billed appropriately.

For the duration of this policy, PEIA will allow office visits, psychotherapy, out-patient therapies and other medical services, to be performed directly between the providers and patients via video conference or telephonically.

PEIA is waiving the requirement of an Originating Site for these services.

Services should be billed with a place of service code 2 and PEIA would prefer the CPT codes billed for telemedicine service to be billed with modifier GT or 95.

This real time interaction must be between the licensed provider and the patient. Communication with office staff cannot be billed under an Evaluation and Management code.

Members can still access services through PEIAs Telehealth vendor, iSelectMD by calling (844)433-8123.

Pre-Certification, Preauthorization and Prior Approvals

Because elective procedures are being delayed, PEIA is automatically extending any current approvals to **12/31/2020**. This means if a current pre-certification, preauthorization or prior approval is in place for a procedure scheduled on or after April 1, 2020, and that procedure is delayed, there is no need to call to reauthorize that procedure. The current authorization will remain valid until the end of this calendar year.

Increase in Reimbursement

Effective 5/11/2023, the additional allowance for Covid admissions will no longer apply.

To help West Virginia hospitals cope with the challenges faced when dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, the PEIA PPB plan will follow the CMS policy of allowing an additional 20%, on DRG claims, for treatment of COVID-19. This will be in effect for any admissions with a discharge date on or after April 1, 2020.

The chart below is from the CMS policy detailing the diagnosis code and DRGs recognized for this additional allowance.

Diagnosis Code	Description	CC	MDC	MS-DRG
U07.1	COVID-19	MCC	04	177,178,179
			15	791,793
			25	974,975,976

PEIA Coverage for COVID-19 at Home Testing

Effective 5/11/2023, the at home tests kits will no longer be covered because they are an over-the-counter item.

In accordance with the latest federal mandate, PEIA will cover at-home, self-administered COVID-19 test kits for PEIA PPB Plan members without a prescription effective January 15, 2022. Express Scripts(ESI) has programmed their system to process these claims with no patient responsibility.

Coverage is limited to eight over the counter COVID-19 at-home tests per covered individual, in the household, per 30-days without a healthcare provider order or clinical assessment. If multiple tests are sold in one package, i.e., if one package includes two tests, it counts as two tests toward the quantity limit of eight (8).

Tests that can be purchased at a retail location or online but are then **sent to a lab for processing** are covered under your medical benefit and should be submitted to UMR. They are not covered unless accompanied by a doctor's order.

To be eligible for reimbursement, the at home COVID-19 test kits:

- must be purchased on or after January 15, 2022
- must be for personal diagnostic use
 - used to identify the potential COVID-19 infection
 - not be used for employment purposes
 - not used for surveillance testing
- will be self-administered with results that can be self-read
- will not be resold, given or supplied to persons other than family members covered under the same policy
- will not be reimbursed by another source

Home Covid Tests purchased and paid for by the patient, after 7/1/2022, should be submitted, by paper claim, to ESI following the instructions in the Summary Plan Description.

Prescription Medications

Early Refills

Until **7/31/2021**, PEIA is allowing early refills of medications. A pharmacy may contact the CVS Caremark Help Desk at 1-800-364-6331 or the member may contact CVS Caremark at 1-844-260-5894, to request an early refill.

If pharmacies are experiencing restricted orders from their wholesalers and are unable to fill ninety-day supplies of maintenance medications, they may contact the CVS Caremark Help Desk to request an override to allow a thirty-day supply.

Quantity Limits

Effective 5/11/2023, these quantity limits no longer apply.

During the current State of Emergency, PEIA is implementing quantity limits on the following medications, azithromycin, hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, and Kaletra, to lessen drug shortage issues. These limits will not impact members currently taking these medications on a chronic basis.

Alternate Care Sites

Will be considered on an as needed basis in the future.

PEIA will cover testing, care, and treatment provided by or at an officially designated Alternate Care Site (ACS). An ACS is defined as a medical facility designated and approved by the State Health authority or the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Ambulance Transportation

Effective 5/11/2023, precertification will be reinstated for this service.

Pre-Certification or approval will not be required for non-emergency ground transportation between West Virginia hospitals or facilities when the transferring hospital or facility is at capacity or cannot provide the appropriate level of care.

Pre-Certification is still required if transfer is to an out of state hospital or for non-emergency air transport.

Timely Filing

For claims incurred 2/4/2020 thru **7/31/2021**, the 6-month timely filing requirement will be waived. Timely filing for claims incurred during this time period will be extended until **7/31/2022**. Claims for 2/4/2020-7/31/2021 will be denied if received after 7/31/2022.

Extending Eligibility

For PEIA PPB plans A, B, C, and D, PEIA will extend health benefits, for dependent children who age off the plan March 31-May 31, 2020 until **the end of the plan**

year, June 30, 2020. Any premium difference created by this coverage, would continue to be billed. This extension is for Health Benefits only.

PEIA will offer COBRA benefit extensions to members whose COBRA eligibility ends between March 31 and May 31, 2020, **until June 30, 2020.** The member would continue to be responsible for the COBRA premium.

Other Important Information

The CDC is periodically updating who should be tested. Please refer to the following link for the latest updates. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

If you believe you have been exposed to or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please call your local health department, primary care provider or iSelectMD for further instructions.

West Virginia has set up a hotline for its citizens and providers for up to date and accurate information regarding COVID-19. The hotline is toll-free, and operators are available 24/7 at 1-800-887-4304.

In addition, Optum, part of UnitedHealth Group, offers its **Emotional-Support Help Line.** Professionally trained, mental health staff are there to support people who may be suffering from fear or stress created by COVID-19. Optum's Emotional-Support Help Line number is [866-342-6892](tel:866-342-6892) and will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The service is free of charge and open to all PEIA members. **(This service was available until 2/15/2022)**