Updated: Pharmacists May Perform & Receive Reimbursement for COVID-19 Tests

June 3, 2020 - Pharmacists may now order, perform and be reimbursed for COVID-19 tests without entering into a collaborative practice agreement or protocol and without a prescription, standing order, or supervision from a physician. Please click this link to read the order and for more information go to the NJ Division of Consumers Affairs COVID-19 page. Testing shall be limited to tests authorized by the FDA, click this link for authorized (EUA) tests.

Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA Waiver):

If you plan to offer COVID-19 testing in your pharmacy, you will need to have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver, but it is NOT needed for specimen collection. For information on how to obtain CLIA waiver and for a copy of the application click this link. To obtain a CLIA Certificate of Waiver, submit an application form (CMS-116, CLIA Application Form) to the state (see the previous link for submission details). Once the CLIA number has been assigned, the laboratory can begin testing as long as applicable CLIA requirements have been met.

Medicare: Pharmacists Must Enroll as an Independent Clinical Laboratory

1. NCPA Medicare Reimbursement Memo: Find out how to get reimbursed by Medicare for certain COVID-19 tests performed by pharmacists. This NCPA summary should provide some much-needed clarification.

2. Medicare Reimbursement Requirement: Pharmacies currently enrolled in Medicare may also enroll temporarily as an Independent Clinical Laboratory to be reimbursed for COVID-19 tests during the emergency. For pharmacies who already have a Provider Transaction Number (PTAN), you will get an additional PTAN. To start, provide the below information to your designated Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) via the provider enrollment hotline. See NCPA memo table for MAC contact information.

3. Pharmacy Info for MAC Contractor: Legal Business Name, National Provider Identifier (NPI), Tax Identification Number (TIN), State license, CLIA certificate number.
4. **Timeline:** Your MAC will then notify you of your temporary Medicare billing privileges and effective date via email within 2 business days.

5. **To maintain billing privileges as an Independent Clinical Laboratory:** Pharmacy must submit a [CMS-855B enrollment application](#) within 30 days after the public health emergency ends to the MAC serving your area.

6. **Link to codes and Medicare Reimbursement Rates for Covid-19 Tests**

   **Senator Gopal Requests NJ Attorney General to Protect Independent Pharmacies**

   Independent community pharmacies are at a higher risk of looting due to the prescription drugs they carry. We would like to thank Senator Vin Gopal for writing a letter to Attorney General Gurbir Grewal requesting that law enforcement closely protect independent pharmacies. Senator Gopal noted that pharmaceutical products should not end up in the wrong hands and pharmacies should be protected in the days ahead. [Click this link to read the Senator's letter.](#) Please notify the NJ Board of Pharmacy of any issues you are experiencing by emailing the executive director, Anthony Rubinaccio, at RubinaccioA@dca.njog.gov.