

MAY 2020

network bulletin

An important message from UnitedHealthcare to health care professionals and facilities.



For the latest on COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

For UnitedHealthcare benefits information and resources related to COVID-19, visit UHCprovider.com/covid19.

Enter



UnitedHealthcare respects the expertise of the physicians, health care professionals and their staff who participate in our network. Our goal is to support you and your patients in making the most informed decisions regarding the choice of quality and cost-effective care, and to support practice staff with a simple and predictable administrative experience. The *Network Bulletin* was developed to share important updates regarding UnitedHealthcare procedure and policy changes, as well as other useful administrative and clinical information.

Where information in this bulletin conflicts with applicable state and/or federal law, UnitedHealthcare follows such applicable federal and/or state law.



Policy, drug and protocol changes contained herein are effective and enforceable as of the dates indicated, pending notice from UnitedHealthcare to the contrary. Changes to these effective dates or updates to our business practices and policies as a result of COVID-19 will prevail and be posted on our care provider website as quickly as possible. As with any public health issue, we are working with and following guidance and protocols issued by federal, state, and local health authorities.

You can find the latest UnitedHealthcare COVID-19 related resources at UHCprovider.com/covid19.

Table of Contents



Front & Center

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and information.

[PAGE 4](#)



UnitedHealthcare Commercial

Learn about program revisions and requirement updates.

[PAGE 10](#)



UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

Learn about Medicaid coverage changes and updates.

[PAGE 12](#)



Front & Center

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and information.

[Policy, Protocol and Program Delays](#)

A number of policy, protocol, program and site of service review delays have been announced in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. >

[COVID-19 Treatment Update](#)

Learn more about how we are waiving member cost sharing for the treatment of COVID-19 until May 31, 2020. >

[Coronary CTA Reimbursement Update](#)

You can learn more about Coronary Computed Tomographic Angiograms (CTA) that are eligible for reimbursement in certain situations. >

[Prior Authorization and Notification Requirement Updates](#)

We're making changes to certain advance notification and prior authorization requirements. >

[Specialty Medical Injectable Drug Program Updates](#)

See the latest updates to requirements for Specialty Medical Injectable Drugs for UnitedHealthcare commercial, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan and UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage members. >

[Pharmacy Update](#)

This pharmacy bulletin outlines upcoming new or revised clinical programs and implementation dates. It is available online for UnitedHealthcare commercial and UnitedHealthcare Oxford commercial plans. >

[Medical Policy Updates](#) >

[Front & Center](#)

Policy, Protocol and Program Delays

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, we are delaying implementation of the following programs, policies, protocols and site of service reviews. Additional information and updates will be provided in future *Network Bulletin* editions and online at UHCprovider.com/Network-News.

- [Electronic Payment Solutions rollout](#) – delayed until further notice
 - Commercial
- Emergency Department (ED) Professional Evaluation and Management (E/M) Coding Policy focused on claims submitted with level 5 (99285) E/M code – delayed until 3rd Quarter 2020
 - [Commercial](#) and [Medicare Advantage](#)
- [ePrescribing Requirement for Controlled Substances](#) – on hold until further notice
 - [Commercial and Medicare Advantage](#)
- [Genetic and Molecular Prior Authorization code update](#)
 - Ohio – delayed until July 1, 2020
 - Washington – delayed until further notice
 - Medicare Advantage
- [Hospital Reference Lab Protocol](#) – delayed until June 1, 2020
 - Commercial
- [Lower Extremity Vascular Intervention Medical Policy \(LEVI\)](#) – delayed until Aug. 1, 2020
 - Commercial
- Medical Benefit Drug Changes
 - [Tysabri and Krystexxa](#) prior authorization – delayed until Oct. 1, 2020
 - Commercial
 - [Medication Sourcing Expansion](#) – delayed until further notice
 - [Commercial](#) and Community Plan for TX and PA
- Pharmacy Benefit for select [Prescription Drug List changes](#) – delayed or no longer being implemented:
 - Basal insulins and other diabetic medications – delayed until July 1, 2020
 - Inhaled corticosteroids for asthma – no longer being implemented
 - Commercial
- [Procedure to Modifier Policy, Professional – Always Therapy enhancements](#) update – delayed until July 1, 2020
 - Commercial
- Site of Service
 - [Site of Service on some surgical codes](#) – suspended through May 31, 2020
 - Site of Service surgical reviews [UnitedHealthcare Oxford](#) – delayed until July 1, 2020

This list was last updated on May 1, 2020.

[Front & Center](#)

COVID-19 Treatment Update

We are waiving member cost sharing for the **treatment** of COVID-19 until May 31, 2020, for Medicare Advantage, Medicaid and Individual and Group Market fully insured health plans. We will also work with self-funded customers who want us to implement a similar approach on their behalf.

If a member receives treatment under a COVID-19 admission or diagnosis code between Feb. 4, 2020 and May 31, 2020, we will waive cost sharing (co-pays, coinsurance and deductibles) for the following:

- Office visits
- Urgent care visits
- Emergency department visits
- Observations stays
- Inpatient hospital episodes
- Acute inpatient rehab
- Long-term acute care
- Skilled nursing facilities

This includes in-network and out-of-network providers as further described on [UHCprovider.com](#).



Please watch for updates on [UHCprovider.com](#) and check back often for the latest information on this and other COVID-19 related announcements.

[Front & Center](#)

Coronary CTA Reimbursement Update

Effective April 1, 2020, we will reimburse for Coronary CT Angiograms when ordered to evaluate stable chest pain in members with low and intermediate risk for coronary artery disease (CAD) as first-line testing (CCTA-First). Computed tomographic angiography (CTA) is expected to replace the need for other functional stress testing in this population.

The following are considered functional stress tests:

- Nuclear Stress
- Stress Echocardiogram
- PET Stress

The following CPT® codes will be reimbursed for suspected CAD:

- 75574: Computed tomographic angiography (CTA)
- 0501T – 0504T: Fractional Flow Reserve CT (FFRct)

How to Request Notification/Prior Authorization

You can complete the notification/prior authorization process:

- **Online:** Go to UHCprovider.com/paan. This preferred option gives you the option of attaching clinical information and may help give you and your patient the fastest results.
- **Phone:** Call the Provider Services number on your patient's member health care ID card.

After we receive your request and required clinical records, we'll review the request and contact both the requesting care provider and member by mail and phone with our coverage decision within 15 calendar days from the date of submission or sooner based on regulations. If coverage is denied, details on how to appeal will be provided in the letter.

CTA will not be implemented for providers practicing in Rhode Island until reviewed and approved by the Rhode Island Office of Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC).

Questions?



Call Provider Services at the number on the back of the member's ID card.

[Front & Center](#)

Prior Authorization and Notification Requirement Updates

View the Updated Notice of Changes to Plan Requirements to get the latest updates to our advance notification and prior authorization requirements. The bulletin is available at UHCprovider.com/priorauth > Advance Notification and Plan Requirement Resources > [2020 Summary of Changes](#).



To see current prior authorization requirements for all plans, please visit UHCprovider.com/priorauth > [Advance Notification and Plan Requirement Resources](#) > Select a Plan Type.

Specialty Medical Injectable Drug Program Updates

You can access the [Specialty Medical Injectable Drug Program Bulletin: May 2020](#) for the latest updates on drugs added to review at launch, program requirements and policies. Click through for complete details or visit UHCprovider.com.

Pharmacy Update

This pharmacy bulletin outlines upcoming new or revised clinical programs and implementation dates. It is available at UHCprovider.com/pharmacy for UnitedHealthcare commercial and UnitedHealth Oxford commercial plans.

[Front & Center](#)

Medical Policy Updates

Access a **Policy Update Bulletin** from the following list for complete details on the latest updates.

UnitedHealthcare Commercial & Affiliates

[UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy Update Bulletin: May 2020](#)

[Oxford Policy Update Bulletin: May 2020](#)

[UnitedHealthcare West Benefit Interpretation Policy Update Bulletin: May 2020](#)

[UnitedHealthcare West Medical Management Guideline Update Bulletin: May 2020](#)

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

[Community Plan Medical Policy Update Bulletin: May 2020](#)

UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage

[Medicare Advantage Coverage Summary Update Bulletin: May 2020](#)

[Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline Update Bulletin: May 2020](#)

UnitedHealthcare Dental

[Dental Policy Update Bulletin: May 2020](#)



UnitedHealthcare Commercial

Learn about program revisions
and requirement updates.

[Prior Authorization and Site of Service Reviews](#)

Beginning Aug. 1, 2020, Iowa will be in scope with specific outpatient surgical codes we announced in November 2019. [➤](#)

Program updates related to UnitedHealthcare Commercial business contained in this Bulletin will not be implemented for providers practicing in Rhode Island until reviewed and approved by the Rhode Island Office of Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC).

[UnitedHealthcare Commercial](#)

Prior Authorization and Site of Service Reviews Update

This is an update to the [November 2019 Network Bulletin](#) notice that specific outpatient surgical codes will be subject to prior authorization and site of service medical necessity reviews.

For care providers in Iowa, effective for dates of service beginning on Aug. 1, 2020, the outpatient surgical codes listed below will be subject to notification/prior authorization requirements and site of service medical necessity reviews if performed outside of a physician's office for **UnitedHealthcare commercial benefit plans, including UnitedHealthcare of the River Valley commercial benefit plans**.

Category	CPT Code
Dermatologic	11402, 11403, 11406, 11422, 11426, 11442
General Surgery	19000
Musculoskeletal	27096, 64479, 64490, 64493
Neurologic	62270, 62321, 6463, 64635
OB/GYN	57460
Respiratory	31579

We use the criteria set forth in our Office Based Procedures – Site of Service Guide to facilitate our site of service medical necessity reviews. The guideline is available at [UHCprovider.com > Policies and Protocols > Commercial Policies > UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines > Office Based Procedures – Site of Service](#).



UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

Learn about Medicaid coverage changes and updates.

[Genetic and Molecular Prior Authorization Update](#)

Prior authorization for genetic and molecular testing performed in an outpatient setting will now be required for California, Hawaii, Ohio and Wisconsin. >

[New Inhaled Nitric Oxide Medical Policy](#)

We have a new medical policy for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members in Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin for the usage of Inhaled Nitric Oxide. >

[Medical Policy Updates](#) >

[Reimbursement Policy Updates](#) >

[UnitedHealthcare Community Plan](#)

Genetic and Molecular Prior Authorization Update

Effective July 1, 2020, for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members in California, Hawaii, Ohio* and Wisconsin, we will require prior authorization and notification for genetic and molecular testing performed in an outpatient setting.

How It Works:

1. Use the **Genetic and Molecular Lab Test tool** on Link to submit your request.
2. Fill in the member’s information.
3. Choose the test and lab to perform the test.
4. **Ordering care providers** – Submit requests for tests that require authorization.
5. **Labs** – Submit your own notification requests for tests that only require notification.
6. Decisions
 - a. You’ll get a decision right away if your online request meets UnitedHealthcare’s clinical and coverage guidelines.**
 - b. If more information or clinical documentation is needed, we’ll contact you.

Approval Will Be Required for the Following:

- Tier 1 Molecular Pathology Procedures
- Tier 2 Molecular Pathology Procedures
- Genomic Sequencing Procedures
- Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses that include Molecular Pathology Testing

CPT codes				
0001U	0069U – 0076U	0118U	81212	S3870
0012U – 0014U	0078U	0129U – 0138U	81215 – 81420	
0016U – 0019U	0081U	0153U – 0162U	81425 – 81479	
0022U – 0023U	0084U	0168U – 0171U	81507	
0026U – 0034U	0087U – 0091U	0004M	81518 – 81522	
0036U – 0037U	0094U	0006M – 0007M	81542	
0040U	0097U	0011M – 0013M	81545	
0045U – 0050U	0101U – 0103U	81105 – 81111	81552	
0055U – 0057U	0111U	81120 – 81121	81595 – 81599	
0060U	0113U	81161 – 81210	87505 – 87507	

 You can find more information on the Genetic and Molecular Lab Test tool on Link at UHCprovider.com/genetics.

* For Ohio, this change has been delayed until July 1, 2020, not June 1, 2020 as previously announced in the [March 2020 Network Bulletin](#).

** Determinations for notification/prior authorization requests will be made based on UnitedHealthcare’s clinical policy requirements for coverage. Our clinical policies can be found at UHCprovider.com/policies.

[UnitedHealthcare Community Plan](#)

New Inhaled Nitric Oxide Medical Policy

Our new medical policy for coverage of Inhaled Nitric Oxide (iNO) will be effective for Community Plan members on Aug. 1, 2020 in Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

You can review the new policy in the [UnitedHealthcare Community Medical Policy Update Bulletin: May 2020](#).

On Aug. 1, 2020, you can view the policy [UHCprovider.com/policies](#) > Community Plan Policies > [Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines for UnitedHealthcare Community Plans](#).

Medical Policy Updates

Access [Community Plan Medical Policy Update Bulletin: May 2020](#) for complete details on the latest updates.

Reimbursement Policy

Reimbursement policies that apply to UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members are located here: [UHCprovider.com](#) > Menu > [Health Plans by State](#) > [\[Select State\]](#) > “View Offered Plan Information” under the Medicaid (Community Plan) section > Bulletins and Newsletters.

We encourage you to regularly visit this site to view reimbursement policy updates.

Insurance coverage provided by or through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or its affiliates. Health plan coverage provided by UnitedHealthcare of Arizona, Inc., UHC of California DBA UnitedHealthcare of California, UnitedHealthcare of Colorado, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc., MAMSI Life and Health Insurance Company, UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc., UnitedHealthcare Insurance Co. of New York, UnitedHealthcare of Oklahoma, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Oregon, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Pennsylvania, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Texas, Inc., UnitedHealthcare Benefits of Texas, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Utah, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Washington, Inc., Optimum Choice, Inc., Oxford Health Insurance, Inc., Oxford Health Plans (NJ), Inc., Oxford Health Plans (CT), Inc., All Savers Insurance Company or other affiliates. Administrative services provided by OptumHealth Care Solutions LLC, OptumRx, Oxford Health Plans LLC, United HealthCare Services, Inc. or other affiliates. Behavioral health products provided by U.S. Behavioral Health Plan, California (USBHPC), United Behavioral Health (UBH) or its affiliates.

PCA-1-20-00721-MarComm-NB_04202020

CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

© 2020 United HealthCare Services, Inc.