



Over-the-Counter COVID-19 At-Home Test Quantity Limit Override Program Summary

This program applies to Medicaid.

CLINICAL RATIONALE

The American Rescue Plan (ARP), enacted on March 11, 2021, includes COVID-19 coverage mandates specific to Medicaid.¹

Section 9811(a) of the ARP added a mandatory Medicaid benefit at section 1905(a)(4)(F) of the Act. Sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 2103(c)(11)(B) of the Act require states to cover testing for COVID-19 for the period beginning on March 11, 2021, and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the COVID-19 emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Act.²

With amendments to Section 9811 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has interpreted the ARP to require states to cover both diagnostic and screening tests for COVID-19 (which includes their administration), consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definitions of diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 and its recommendations for who should receive diagnostic and screening tests for COVID-19.³ CMS interprets these amendments to require states to cover, without cost sharing, all diagnostic and screening testing that would be consistent with the CDC recommendations. This includes, for example, coverage of screening testing to return to school or work or to meet travel requirements.²

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) allows 8 packages to be dispensed per month per member. Additional tests can be dispensed with prior authorization.

References

1. Text - H.R.1319 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. (2021, March 11). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>.
2. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2021, August 30). Medicaid and CHIP Coverage and Reimbursement of COVID-19 Testing Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and Medicaid Coverage of Habilitation Services. <https://www.medicare.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho-21-003.pdf>.
3. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, December 28). Testing Strategies for SARS-CoV-2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/sars-cov2-testing-strategies.html>.

Over-the-Counter COVID-19 At-Home Test Quantity Limit Override Criteria

TARGET AGENT(S)

Over-the-Counter COVID-19 At-Home Tests

Brand (generic)	Quantity Limit (per 30 days or as noted)
Over-the-Counter COVID-19 At-Home Tests	8 tests

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

Quantities above the program quantity limit for the **Target Agent(s)** will be approved when ALL of the following are met:

1. The requested agent has been approved or granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA)
AND
2. The requested agent is labeled for at-home use
AND
3. The prescriber has provided information in support of the use of a higher quantity

Length of Approval: One-time up to 8 tests