



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Contact: See below

**TO: All Providers**

**RE: CMAP COVID-19 Response – Bulletin 27: New COVID-19 Coverage Group for Uninsured Residents**

In response to the declaration of a public health emergency as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Connecticut, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is taking steps to address the needs of Medicaid members as well as the provider community. These steps are intended to help reduce unnecessary exposure to health care workers and the general public, and generally help contain the spread of the virus.

As part of our efforts, DSS will be implementing an optional Medicaid coverage group, “COVID-19 Testing Group” for uninsured Connecticut residents.

### **Testing Services for Uninsured Individuals**

Effective March 18, 2020, a new federal law, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), created a new, optional eligibility category for states to expand Medicaid coverage to certain individuals for coverage of COVID-19 testing and testing-related services. To qualify for this eligibility group, potential beneficiaries must meet the definition of an “uninsured individual” as defined by FFCRA, which requires that an individual:

- Be a citizen or qualified non-citizen per federal Medicaid requirements;
- Not be eligible to receive coverage under a mandatory Medicaid eligibility group;
- Not be currently enrolled in full Medicaid (this limitation would not apply to beneficiaries enrolled in a limited benefit

scope category, such as beneficiaries with tuberculosis or those eligible only for family planning services);

- Not be enrolled in another government health care program (e.g., Medicare, CHIP, TRICARE, VA, FEHBP, etc.); and
- Not be enrolled in a group health plan offered by a health insurer (e.g., qualified exchange plans, employer-sponsored insurance, retiree health plans, and COBRA continuation coverage).

There is no income limit for this coverage group. The covered benefit is limited to COVID testing itself and the testing-related provider visit. DSS will be issuing more detailed guidance on this new coverage group in the near future.

In the interim, all Connecticut residents who are seeking COVID-19 testing should be encouraged to apply for full medical coverage through Access Health CT at [www.accesshealthct.com](http://www.accesshealthct.com) or by calling 1-855-805-4325. Enrollment in the new coverage group may be done retroactively, with effective dates on and after March 18, 2020.

Providers should maintain fiscal records to identify services provided to uninsured patients for assessment of COVID-19 to help maximize Medicaid reimbursement.

Finally, DSS would like to remind hospitals, health systems and hospital-based facilities of the requirements of Executive Order 7U (available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7U.pdf>), including, but not limited to, the sections that state:

e. No hospital shall bill any individual not otherwise covered by any public or private health plan for services received for treatment and management of COVID-19, unless and until clarified by further executive order regarding distribution of any federal funding that may be made available to cover such services.

f. Each hospital, health system or hospital-based facility shall maintain fiscal records to identify services provided to uninsured

patients for treatment and management of COVID-19 and make such records available for claiming federal reimbursement, as applicable.

**Posting Instructions:**

Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com).

**Distribution:**

This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program by DXC Technology.

**Responsible Unit:**

DSS Medical Eligibility Policy at [EligPolicy.DSS@ct.gov](mailto:EligPolicy.DSS@ct.gov)

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