SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #74: NC Medicaid Temporarily Increases Rates for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics
Thursday, April 30, 2020

NC Medicaid is temporarily increasing financial assistance to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to support them in maintaining critical access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries during the COVID-19 emergency.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #73: Personal Care Services Telephonic Assessments Update
Thursday, April 30, 2020

Effective May 1, 2020, Liberty Healthcare of North Carolina will resume completion of annual assessments. SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #30: Personal Care Services Assessments also indicated that annual assessments due would have Prior Approvals extended for a minimum of 90 days.

More

Thursday, April 30, 2020

On March 30, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced an amendment of 42 CFR 440.70 through an Interim Final Rule (IFR), focused mostly on changes to the Medicare policy addressing COVID-19 response.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #71: Extension of Temporary Suspension of Level I and Level II Assessments for New Nursing Home Admissions
Thursday, April 30, 2020

NC Medicaid temporarily suspended the requirement of Level I and Level II Preadmission Screening and Resident Reviews (PASRRs) for new nursing home admissions as well as the requirement of a PASRR number on the prior approval (PA). The temporary suspension was due to COVID-19 and was in effect from March 25 – April 24, 2020, as noted in SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #15: Medicaid and NC Health Choice Temporary Flexibilities - 1135 Waiver Provisions.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #70: Addition of Mailing and Delivery Fees to Retail Pharmacy Claims
Thursday, April 30, 2020

Effective April 27, 2020, prescriptions for NC Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries are eligible for the addition of a mailing or delivery fee via the guidelines below. NC Medicaid encourages beneficiaries to request, and pharmacy providers to mail or deliver prescriptions to beneficiaries, during the COVID-19 pandemic to achieve better social distancing within their community.

More

Trastuzumab-Qyyp for Injection, for Intravenous Use (Trazimera™) HCPCS Code Q5116: Billing Guidelines
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Effective with date of service Feb.

More

Cetirizine Hydrochloride Injection, for Intravenous Use (Quzyttir™) HCPCS Code J3490: Billing Guidelines
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Effective with date of service Feb. 19, 2020, the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs cover cetirizine hydrochloride injection, for intravenous use (Quzyttir™) for use in the Physician Administered Drug Program (PADP) when billed with HCPCS code J3490 - Unclassified drugs.

More

Cefiderocol for Injection, for Intravenous Use (Fetroja®) HCPCS Code J3490: Billing Guidelines
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Effective with date of service Feb. 24, 2020, the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs cover cefiderocol for injection, for intravenous use (Fetroja®) for use in the Physician Administered Drug Program (PADP) when billed with HCPCS code J3490 - Unclassified drugs.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #69: Clarification to Bulletin #15 Medicaid and NC Health Choice Temporary Flexibilities - 1135 Waiver Provisions and Replace Effective Dates Stated in Bulletins #2, #10 & #11

Monday, April 27, 2020

This Bulletin clarifies which specific Prior Authorizations were lifted on the March 1, 2020, effective date stated in SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #15: Medicaid and NC Health Choice Temporary Flexibilities - 1135 Waiver Provisions (posted March 24, 2020), including references all relevant Prior Authorization information included in other Bulletins; replaces the effective dates originally stated in the following Bulletins: SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #2: General Guidance and Policy Modifications (posted March 13, 2020); SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #10: Durable Medical Equipment: Temporary Flexibilities Effective March 23, 2020 (posted March 24, 2020); and SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #11: Outpatient Specialized Therapies Temporary Flexibilities (posted March 24, 2020).

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #68: Expedited Hardship Advances and Retroactive Targeted Rate Increases for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Adult Care Homes Serving COVID-positive Patients

Monday, April 27, 2020

NC Medicaid is directing increased financial assistance to North Carolina Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) and Adult Care Homes (ACH) to support addressing the increased costs of caring for COVID positive (COVID+) residents in a congregate care setting.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #67: Telehealth and Virtual Patient Communications Clinical Policy Modifications - Outpatient Respiratory Therapy

Friday, April 24, 2020

NC Medicaid has eliminated the restriction that teletherapy services cannot be conducted via “video cell phone interactions.” These services can now be delivered via any HIPAA-compliant, secure technology with audio and video capabilities, including (but not limited to) smart phones, tablets and computers.

More
**SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #66: Telehealth and Virtual Patient Communications Clinical Policy Modifications - Well Child Visits**
Friday, April 24, 2020

NC Medicaid is temporarily adding telemedicine coverage for providers to conduct Well Child Visits with patients to ensure the provision of comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21. Providers are encouraged to continue providing well child visits, immunizations and or preventive care during the pandemic.

More

**SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #65: Telehealth and Virtual Patient Communications Clinical Policy Modifications - Postpartum Depression Screening**
Friday, April 24, 2020

NC Medicaid has temporarily enabled providers to conduct postpartum depression screenings of postpartum women via several remote modalities in light of social distancing measures that may prevent in-person visits.

More

**SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #64: Telehealth and Virtual Patient Communications Clinical Policy Modifications - Health and Behavior Intervention Visits Provided by Local Health Departments**
Friday, April 24, 2020

NC Medicaid has temporarily enabled licensed clinical social workers at Local Health Departments to conduct Health and Behavior Intervention visits for pregnant and postpartum women who have serious psychosocial needs via telemedicine. Local health departments can bill for a variety of other medical and behavioral services provided by an MD, NP, PA, CNM, or appropriate Behavioral Health personnel when delivered via telehealth or virtual patient communications, as outlined in various NC Medicaid Special Bulletins (#34, 35, 36, 43, 48 and 49) regarding Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications that have been instituted in light of COVID-19.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #63: NC Innovations and NC TBI Waivers Community-Based Services (HCBS) Flexibilities – Retainer Payments
Friday, April 24, 2020

NC Medicaid has implemented flexibilities on how Medicaid providers and beneficiaries may access and receive Medicaid services in the wake of COVID-19. Retainer payments may be made for direct care providers of services that include habilitation or personal care that are currently authorized in the Individual Support Plan (ISP).

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #62: Clinical Policy Modifications - Suspending Copays on COVID-19-related Services
Thursday, April 23, 2020

NCDHHS is directing providers to stop collecting copayments from Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries on all COVID-19 related testing, services and treatments. This change is effective retroactive to Jan.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #61: Credit Balance Quarterly Reports Extension
Thursday, April 23, 2020

Considering the challenges providers are facing with COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid is extending the due date for March 31, 2020, credit balance reports by 90 days. The extension will allow providers to submit their March 31 and June 30, 2020, credit balance reports. All credit balance reports for March 31 and June 30, 2020, quarter ends will be due July 30, 2020.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #60: Fidelity Reviews Delayed for Current Individual Placement and Support (IPS) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams
Thursday, April 23, 2020

Effective April 16, 2020, any Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team or Individual Placement and Support (IPS) team that met fidelity prior to the State of Emergency related to COVID-19 will continue to meet Medicaid and State-funded services policy requirements through the end of the declared State of Emergency.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #59: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications - Outpatient Behavioral Health Services
Thursday, April 23, 2020

Effective April 20, 2020, NC Medicaid is temporarily modifying its Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Clinical Coverage Policy 8C: Outpatient Behavioral Health Services Provided by Direct-Enrolled Providers to better enable the delivery of care to NC Medicaid, NC Health Choice and State-funded individuals in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This guidance on allowing telephonic outpatient psychotherapy is in addition to the telehealth flexibilities previously added.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #58: Personal Care Services Additional Policy Allowances
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

During the period of the State of Emergency, supervisory visits must be conducted, but may be conducted utilizing eligible technologies that allow the supervising registered nurse to remotely communicate and evaluate services rendered. Supervisory visits can be delivered via any HIPAA-compliant, secure technology with audio and video capabilities including (but not limited to) smart phones, tablets and computers.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #57: Private Duty Nursing Flexibility Updates
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

To avoid delays in beneficiaries receiving needed private duty nursing services, NC Medicaid is temporarily approving prior authorizations that are in pending status for documentation of validation of primary insurance for 60 calendar days. This will allow for the delayed verification responses from individual third-party insurance providers to be uploaded to the prior authorizations in NCTracks. Details regarding documentation, supervisory visits and eligible remote technologies are included in this bulletin.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #56: Key Federal Funding Available for Health Care Providers and Hospitals
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Congress has enacted three significant stimulus packages to help the country weather the COVID-19 pandemic, which establish a variety of funding sources to support providers, each with distinct features including which provider types are eligible, if providers must apply to be considered and if the financial benefit is a grant or a loan that must be repaid. NC Medicaid has created a summary of financial relief available by provider type.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #55: NC Medicaid Receives Approval for Expanded Flexibilities for Home and Community-Based Services
Tuesday, April 21, 2020

NC Medicaid has received federal approval of flexibilities during the COVID-19 crisis for the NC Innovations Waiver for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD); NC Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver for individuals who have a TBI diagnosis after age of 21; Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) for disabled adults and the Community Alternatives Program for Children (CAP/C) for medically fragile children.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #54: Clinical Policy Modifications - Family Planning Services Annual Exam Requirement Waived
Monday, April 20, 2020

Note: Additional Family Planning guidance may be released in the future, which would replace this bulletin.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #53: Coronavirus Code Added as Billable Diagnosis and Annual Office Visit Limit Exemption
Monday, April 20, 2020

Effective April 1, 2020, in response to the anticipated spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in North Carolina, NC Medicaid is adding "U07.1 - 2019-nCoV Acute Respiratory Disease" as a billable diagnosis. Additionally, diagnosis code U07.1 is being added to the list of diagnoses exempt from the annual visit limit also effective April 1.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #52: Coverage for Weight Scales and Portable Pulse Oximeters - Temporary Flexibilities  
Monday, April 20, 2020

Effective retroactive to March 10, 2020, Medicaid and NC Health Choice plans are temporarily covering weight scales and adding a purchase option for portable pulse oximeters.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #51: NCDHHS COVID-19 Guidance for NC Clinicians and Laboratories  
Monday, April 20, 2020

An update to COVID-19 guidance for North Carolina clinicians and laboratories includes updated laboratory testing guidance; updated criteria for submission of specimens to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH); and replacement of information that is not North Carolina-specific with links to relevant CDC guidance.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #50: Provider Webinar Added for COVID-19 Appendix K Flexibilities for the NC Innovations and TBI Waivers  
Sunday, April 19, 2020

NC Medicaid has implemented flexibilities on how Medicaid providers deliver and beneficiaries receive Medicaid services in the wake of COVID-19. Utilization and prior approval limits for specific State Plan Medicaid services will be relaxed for all Medicaid beneficiaries impacted by COVID-19 including individuals participating in the NC Innovations Waiver and the NC TBI Waiver.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #49: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications - Interim Perinatal Care Guidance  
Friday, April 17, 2020

This SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #49 replaces SPECIAL BULLETIN #42: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications - Postpartum Care. Please note billing guidance change to postpartum care visits, which can be billed separately OR as part of a pregnancy package code.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #48: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications - Remote Physiologic Monitoring Services
Friday, April 17, 2020

NC Medicaid has added coverage for providers to help their patients engage in Remote Physiologic Monitoring (RPM), providing the opportunity to improve management of diseases and engage patients in their own care.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #47: Updates for PACE Organizations
Friday, April 17, 2020

PACE organizations should continue to follow the guidance of the local, state and federal officials regarding COVID-19 and thoroughly document reasoning for making decisions which may fall outside of the PACE program model. This guidance supplements the Special Bulletin COVID-19 #27 released on March 30, 2020. The temporary flexibilities noted in Special Bulletin COVID-19 #27 and this Special Bulletin will end the earlier of the cancellation of the North Carolina state of emergency declaration or December 31, 2020.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #46: Behavioral Health Service Flexibilities
Thursday, April 16, 2020

Effective April 16, 2020, NC Medicaid, in partnership with the DHHS Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, is temporarily modifying its Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Clinical Coverage Policies to better enable the delivery of care to NC Medicaid, NC Health Choice and State-funded individuals in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

More
**SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #45: Increase in Therapeutic Leave Days for ICF/IDD Facilities Due to COVID-19**  
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Effective March 10, 2020, through the conclusion of the North Carolina declared state of emergency related to the COVID-19 crisis, NC Medicaid is temporarily increasing the number of therapeutic leave days for Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IIDs) from 60 days to 90 days and waiving the requirement of approval needed more than 15 consecutive days per Clinical Coverage Policy 8E.

More

**SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #44: Pharmacy Claims Flexibility Available to Prevent Spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**  
Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Given the presence of the COVID-19 virus in North Carolina, point of sale pharmacy claims processing flexibility has been instituted to help reduce the administrative burden of providing appropriate medications in a timely fashion to NC Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries.

More

**Clinical Coverage Policies**  
Tuesday, April 14, 2020

The following new or amended clinical coverage policies are available on the Clinical Coverage Policies web page on NC Medicaid’s website: 3K-2, Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) – March 1, 2020

More

**SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #43: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring**  
Thursday, April 9, 2020

NC Medicaid has temporarily modified its Telemedicine and Telepsychiatry Clinical Coverage Policy to better enable the delivery of remote care to Medicaid beneficiaries.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #42: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Postpartum Care
Thursday, April 9, 2020

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #42: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Postpartum Care has been replaced by SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #49: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Interim Perinatal Care Guidance.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #41: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Optometry Services
Thursday, April 9, 2020

Eligible Providers and Services - Optometrists may now bill for the following services when delivered remotely:

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #40: Reduction of In-Person Visits for Specific Optical and Hearing Aid Services
Thursday, April 9, 2020

NC Medicaid has temporarily modified the delivery of specific optical and hearing aid services to reduce in-person visits for Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries due to the state of emergency related to COVID-19.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #39: Face-to-Face Provider Site Visits and Fingerprinting Requirements for NC Medicaid Provider Enrollment Temporarily Suspended
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Note: SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #39 replaces SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #8: Face-to-Face Provider Site Visits and Fingerprinting Requirements Temporarily Suspended Due to COVID-19 Outbreak. Changes to the prior Bulletin are:

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #38: Private Duty Nursing Clinical Policy Modification – Prior Approval Status Due to Refusal of PDN Services
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Current Policy: Private Duty Nursing (PDN) Clinical Coverage Policy 3G-1. Private Duty Nursing for Beneficiaries Age 21 and older and Private Duty Nursing (PDN) Clinical Coverage Policy 3G-2 Private Duty Nursing for Beneficiaries Age Under 21 years of age section 5.2.4.1:

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #37: Patient Information and Support Line Available
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

DHHS and Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) have launched a toll-free Patient Information and Support Line aimed at helping health care providers answer their patients' questions related to COVID-19.

More

Teprotumumab-Trbw for Injection, for Intravenous Use (Tepezza™) HCPCS Code J3590: Billing Guidelines
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Effective with date of service Jan. 28, 2020, the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs cover teprotumumab-trbw for injection, for intravenous use (Tepezza™) for use in the Physician Administered Drug Program (PADP) when billed with HCPCS code J3590 - Unclassified biologics.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #36: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Outpatient Specialized Therapies and Dental Services
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #36 replaces in its entirety SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #21: Telehealth Provisions – Outpatient Specialized Therapies and Dental Services. Changes are to F. Place of Service for Outpatient Specialized Therapy and for Dental Services, and includes new teledentistry codes and guidance.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #35: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Enhanced Behavioral Services
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #35 replaces in its entirety SPECIAL BULLETIN #20 – Enhanced Behavioral Services. Change is to Place of Service: Telemedicine and telepsychiatry claims should be filed with the provider’s usual place of service code per the appropriate clinical coverage policy and not Place of Service (POS) 02 (telehealth). Additional background and guidance are included.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #34: Telehealth Clinical Policy Modifications – Definitions, Eligible Providers, Services and Codes
Tuesday, April 7, 2020


More

Rituximab-Pvvr Injection, for Intravenous Use (Ruxience™) HCPCS Code J9999: Billing Guidelines
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Effective with date of service Feb. 3, 2020, the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs cover rituximab-pvvr injection, for intravenous use (Ruxience™) for use in the Physician Administered Drug Program when billed with HCPCS code J9999 - Not otherwise classified, antineoplastic drugs.

More

NC Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program Announcements
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

NC-MIPS is Open for Program Year 2019 through April 30, 2020, The Security Risk Analysis, Reminder from CMS Regarding Objective 6 and Objective 7, Clarification from CMS Regarding Objective 5 Measure 1: Patient Electronic Access and General Reminders

More
Imipenem, Cilastatin, and Relebactam for Injection, for Intravenous Use (Recarbrio™) HCPCS Code J3490: Billing Guidelines
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Effective with date of service Jan. 6, 2020, the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs cover imipenem, cilastatin, and relebactam for injection, for intravenous use (Recarbrio™) for use in the Physician Administered Drug Program when billed with HCPCS code J3490 - Unclassified drugs.

More

Bevacizumab-Bvzr Injection, for Intravenous Use (Zirabev™) HCPCS Code Q5118 - Injection, Bevacizumab-Bvzr, Biosimilar, (Zirabev), 10 mg: Billing Guidelines
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Effective with date of service Jan. 13, 2020, the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs cover bevacizumab-bvzr injection, for intravenous use (Zirabev™) for use in the Physician Administered Drug Program when billed with HCPCS code Q5118 - Injection, bevacizumab-bvzr, biosimilar, (Zirabev™), 10 mg.

More

Antihemophilic Factor (Recombinant), Glycopegylated-Exei Lyophilized Powder for Solution, for Intravenous Use (Esperoct®) HCPCS Code J7199: Billing Guidelines
Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Effective with date of service Feb. 3, 2020, the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs cover antihemophilic factor (recombinant), glycopegylated-exei lyophilized powder for solution, for intravenous use (Esperoct®) for use in the Physician Administered Drug Program when billed with HCPCS code J7199 - Hemophilia clotting factor, not otherwise classified.

More
SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #33: Webinars for COVID-19 Appendix K Flexibilities for the NC Innovations and TBI Waivers
Saturday, April 4, 2020

NC Medicaid has implemented flexibilities on how Medicaid providers and beneficiaries receive Medicaid services in the wake of COVID-19. Utilization and prior approval limits for specific State Plan Medicaid services will be relaxed for all Medicaid beneficiaries impacted by COVID-19 including individuals participating in the NC Innovations Waiver and the NC TBI Waiver. Medicaid is hosting two webinars to further discuss the flexibilities.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #32: Rate Increase and Claims Reprocessing
Friday, April 3, 2020

Effective March 10, 2020, the Division of Health Benefits (DHB) implemented a 5% rate increase for certain Medicaid provider groups listed in the Bulletin. DHB will systematically reprocess claims submitted with dates of service beginning March 10, 2020, through the implementation date of the rate increase.

More

SPECIAL BULLETIN COVID-19 #31: NC Medicaid COVID-19 Updated Guidelines for Non-emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)
Friday, April 3, 2020

“NC Medicaid COVID-19 Updated Guidelines for Non-emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)” provides information to local Departments of Social Services (DSS) and NEMT providers on personal protective equipment (PPE).

More