



## **Important Provider Notice for 2023 COVID Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing Labs**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023**

### **2023 Requirements**

Longevity Health Plan (LHP) has published a Utilization Management (UM) Policy in alignment with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance document and CDC guidance for COVID testing to define when a COVID PCR test is payable by LHP. This Policy can be found on the LHP website under [Coverage Guidelines](#) (UM COVID Testing Policy) and is located [HERE](#).

### **Guidance for Providers of COVID Tests**

When a COVID test is required, Labs and Facilities should utilize a viral antigen test as the first line of testing, prior to requiring a PCR test. PCR tests should only be used if the test would meet medical necessity requirements that are defined in the COVID Testing Policy linked above.

In alignment with CMS guidance, serial or surveillance COVID testing is not reimbursed by Medicare so those claims will be denied by LHP.

If COVID PCR Testing claims are denied, the provider may submit detailed documentation for clinical determination along with the claim, or dispute or appeal for medical necessity if they disagree with the denial decision and will be required to submit supporting medical records.

Serial Testing is defined as multiple claims for PCR testing within the same week or month for the same member

Surveillance Testing is defined as PCR testing all members within the same facility for purposes of surveillance (determining exposure infection or due to other positive cases in the building)

Both Serial and Surveillance testing are not covered by Medicare.

**Please Note: This process is in alignment with CDC and CMS guidance.**

[Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 Testing at Skilled Nursing Facilities/ Nursing Homes](#)

[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

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