Provider Bulletin

News and Information

May 23, 2023

End to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended on May 11, 2023. UCare has revised its COVID-19 guidance for providers. Review the UCare COVID-19 Information for Providers page for more information regarding the following changes.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Testing

UCare Medicare
The federal Medicare program no longer covers OTC COVID-19 tests. After May 11, UCare members can use their UCare Healthy Savings® cards to purchase OTC COVID-19 tests.

UCare Individual & Family Plans
Members can obtain up to eight Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized OTC tests for COVID-19. These tests are available at no cost to UCare members every 30 days with a prescription.

MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Senior Care Plus, Prepaid Medical Assistance Program, UCare Connect, UCare Connect + Medicare and UCare's Minnesota Senior Health Options
UCare will cover up to eight OTC COVID-19 tests per month at a pharmacy with a prescription.

COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage

All UCare Products
COVID-19 vaccines are covered with no cost share as a preventive service for all products. Visit CMS COVID-19 Vaccines and Monoclonal Antibodies page for information about COVID-19 vaccines.

Monoclonal Antibodies and Antivirals

All UCare Products
Cost share applies to monoclonal antibody treatments that are approved for emergency use or authorized by the FDA. COVID-19 treatments continually change.

Reference the CMS COVID-19 Vaccines and Monoclonal Antibodies page for the most up-to-date list of other monoclonal antibodies that are approved for emergency use or authorized by the FDA. The page also shares the associated codes, effective dates and a list of monoclonal antibodies that are no longer authorized.

Member Out-of-Pocket Expenses: COVID-19-Related Coverage

All UCare Products
Cost share will be applied for inpatient, observation, outpatient, office-based clinic and emergency department services.

UCare

Telehealth, Telemedicine Coverage

UCare Medicare and UCare Individual & Family Plan Products
UCare will follow the expansion of telehealth guidelines through Dec. 31, 2024. Refer to the Telehealth policy changes after the COVID-19 public health emergency page for a complete guide to telehealth services.

Telehealth Services, Billing and Payment Guidelines for COVID-19-Related Services

UCare State Public Programs
UCare follows DHS Telehealth guidelines related to eligible providers and services.

Questions

Contact the Provider Assistance Center at 612-676-3300 or 1-888-531-1493 with questions.

‌UCare