



Medi-Cal Rx Coverage of Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Antigen Test Kits

January 26, 2022

Effective February 1, 2022, Over-the-Counter (OTC) Emergency Use of Authorization (EUA) U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized, self-administered COVID-19 antigen test kits can be billed and reimbursed as a pharmacy-billed medical supply benefit through Medi-Cal Rx in accordance with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations.

Coverage is restricted to specific 1-test-per-kit or 2-tests-per-kit OTC EUA COVID-19 FDA-authorized, self-administered COVID-19 antigen tests listed in the [List of Covered Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) COVID-19 Antigen Tests](#), which can be found on the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal under "Forms and Information," and require dispensing from a pharmacy, written (or electronic equivalent) on a prescription pad signed by a licensed prescriber or a pharmacist. Packages/kits cannot be broken or sold as individual tests.

The following coverage criteria applies:

- Restricted to EUA for the diagnostic condition of suspected COVID-19 (Code I Restriction).
- Restricted to up to 8 tests (4 kits for 2 tests/kit) per 30 days per beneficiary.
- No refills allowed; the beneficiary would need to obtain a new prescription for each dispensing.

NOTE: Prior authorization (PA) requests for quantities outside the allowed amounts will be denied unless ordered or administered by a provider following an individualized clinical assessment and with appropriate clinical justification provided.

In order to receive a test or test kit, the beneficiary must be eligible for Medi-Cal on the date of service. Please refer to the *Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual* on the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal for additional coverage and reimbursement information.

Coverage policy for OTC EUA COVID-19 FDA-authorized, self-administered COVID-19 antigen tests through Medi-Cal was effective March 11, 2021, under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Beneficiaries who purchased OTC EUA COVID-19 FDA-authorized, self-administered COVID-19 antigen tests between March 11, 2021 and January 31, 2022, over-the-counter and paid for them out-of-pocket may be able to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal. Reimbursement is limited to up to 8 tests (4 kits for 2 tests/kit) per 30 days per beneficiary and is restricted to specific 1-test-per-kit or 2-tests-per-kit OTC EUA COVID-19 FDA-authorized, self-administered COVID-19 antigen tests. Beneficiaries must be eligible for Medi-Cal on the date of purchase and must include proof of purchase and a copy of their beneficiary Benefits Identification Card (BIC) with the request for reimbursement. For more information on how to obtain a refund, please visit the Medi-Cal Out-of-Pocket Expense Reimbursement (Conlan) web page on the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) website at https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/Medi-Cal_Conlan.aspx.

Additionally, beginning Wednesday, January 19, 2022, anyone with a U.S. residential address can request four (4) at-home COVID-19 tests to be delivered directly to their home through a new federal government website: www.covidtests.gov. DHCS encourages all Californians to take advantage of this opportunity.

To place an order, all you need is your name and residential address; no identification, credit card, or health insurance information is required. These tests will be delivered in the mail through the U.S. Postal Service. There is an option to provide an email address to receive email notifications with shipping updates. According to the federal government, tests will typically ship within 7-12 days of ordering.