

PEIA Policy for COVID-19

3/10/2020 (Latest update 11/18/2020)

Effective until 6/30/2020

(Extended to end of COVID-19 emergency period unless an end date is indicated in the policy)

Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus designated SARS-CoV-2. The outbreak of COVID-19 originated in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. With thousands of confirmed cases being reported in a rapidly growing number of countries worldwide and the number of national cases growing, the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) is establishing this policy to support the health and safety of our members.

Diagnosis, Testing, and Immunizations

Effective with date of service 2/04/2020 and after, PEIA will cover COVID-19 testing, at a network provider, at 100% of the contracted allowance, for members who meet CDC guidelines for testing. This will apply to PEIA PPB plans A, B, C and D. This means the members will have no deductible or coinsurance for the actual test. Deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance will also be waived for any physician or facility services incurred in the process of being tested.

Administration of the COVID immunization will also be covered at 100% of the fee allowance for all members. This will apply to all PEIA PPB plans A, B, C, and D.

Treatment of any members who test positive for the virus will be covered at normal benefit levels.

Temporary Expansion of Telemedicine Benefit

For the duration of this policy, PEIA will allow office visits, psychotherapy, out-patient therapies and other medical services, to be performed directly between the providers and patients via video conference or telephonically.

PEIA is waiving the requirement of an Originating Site for these services.

Services should be billed with a place of service code 2 and PEIA would prefer the CPT codes billed for telemedicine service to be billed with modifier GT or 95.

This real time interaction must be between the licensed provider and the patient. Communication with office staff cannot be billed under an Evaluation and Management code.

Members can still access services through PEIA's Telehealth vendor, iSelectMD by calling (844)433-8123.

Pre-Certification, Preauthorization and Prior Approvals

Because elective procedures are being delayed, PEIA is automatically extending any current approvals to 12/31/2020. This means if a current pre-certification, preauthorization or prior approval is in place for a procedure scheduled on or after April 1, 2020, and that procedure is delayed, there is no need to call to reauthorize that procedure. The current authorization will remain valid until the end of this calendar year.

Increase in Reimbursement

To help West Virginia hospitals cope with the challenges faced when dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, the PEIA PPB plan will follow the CMS policy of allowing an additional 20%, on DRG claims, for treatment of COVID-19. This will be in effect for any admissions with a discharge date on or after April 1, 2020.

The chart below is from the CMS policy detailing the diagnosis code and DRGs recognized for this additional allowance.

Diagnosis Code	Description	CC	MDC	MS-DRG
U07.1	COVID-19	MCC	04	177,178,179
			15	791,793
			25	974,975,976

Prescription Medications

Early Refills

During the current State of Emergency, PEIA is allowing early refills of medications. A pharmacy may contact the CVS Caremark Help Desk at 1-800-364-6331 or the member may contact CVS Caremark at 1-844-260-5894, to request an early refill.

If pharmacies are experiencing restricted orders from their wholesalers and are unable to fill ninety-day supplies of maintenance medications, they may contact the CVS Caremark Help Desk to request an override to allow a thirty-day supply.

Quantity Limits

During the current State of Emergency, PEIA is implementing quantity limits on the following medications, azithromycin, hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, and Kaletra, to lessen drug shortage issues. These limits will not impact members currently taking these medications on a chronic basis.

Alternate Care Sites

PEIA will cover testing, care, and treatment provided by or at an officially designated Alternate Care Site (ACS). An ACS is defined as a medical facility designated and approved by the State Health authority or the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Extending Eligibility

For PEIA PPB plans A, B, C, and D, PEIA will extend health benefits, for dependent children who age off the plan March 31-May 31, 2020 until **the end of the plan year, June 30, 2020**. Any premium difference created by this coverage, would continue to be billed. This extension is for Health Benefits only.

PEIA will offer COBRA benefit extensions to members whose COBRA eligibility ends between March 31 and May 31, 2020, **until June 30, 2020**. The member would continue to be responsible for the COBRA premium.

Other Important Information

The CDC is periodically updating who should be tested. Please refer to the following link for the latest updates. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

If you believe you have been exposed to or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please call your local health department, primary care provider or iSelectMD for further instructions.

West Virginia has set up a hotline for its citizens and providers for up to date and accurate information regarding COVID-19. The hotline is toll-free and operators are available 24/7 at 1-800-887-4304.

In addition, Optum, part of UnitedHealth Group, offers its **Emotional-Support Help Line**. Professionally trained, mental health staff are there to support people who may be suffering from fear or stress created by COVID-19. Optum's Emotional-Support Help Line number is [866-342-6892](tel:866-342-6892) and will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The service is free of charge and open to all PEIA members.