



WellFirst Health™

Business Offices in
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March 26, 2020

Dear WellFirst Health Plan Provider:

Thank you for providing high-quality services to our members during the rapidly-evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. We will release a notification every Thursday to keep you informed of new and updated interim COVID-19 health plan policies to support our members and you during this time. We will communicate urgent information quickly outside of these weekly notifications, should the need arise.

This notification contains information regarding:

- Prior authorizations in response to delayed elective surgeries and non-essential procedures.
- ICD-10 code U07.1 approved for use beginning April 1, 2020.
- New CPT code, 87635, effective March 13, 2020.
- Zoom meeting licensure available from the health plan for telemedicine services.

Postponement of Elective Surgeries and Non-Essential Procedures

On March 18, 2020, [CMS released a recommendation that all elective surgeries, non-essential medical, surgical, and dental procedures be delayed during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) for the preservation of personal protective equipment, beds, and ventilators. In response, WellFirst Health Plan's Utilization Management is evaluating all approved prior authorizations on file for elective inpatient admissions with a surgery/admit date on or before March 16, 2020, to determine if the surgery was rendered:

- If the surgery has been performed, we will process the applicable provider claims using our standard process.
- If the surgery was not performed, we will change the admit/start date on the prior authorization to a future date. We will continue to do so, as necessary, during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Authorizations with a changed start/admit date will be denoted by a COVID-19 statement in the Provider Portal authorization summary.

Providers do not need to obtain a new prior authorization for any already-approved surgeries. Once CMS lifts its recommendation and the surgery is scheduled, providers will need to call our Customer Care Center to report the date of surgery, as required by our current process.

Earlier Date for Using ICD-10 code - U07.1

The implementation date for ICD-10-CM code U07.1 (COVID-19) has been moved up to April 1, 2020, from October 1, 2020. Effective for discharge/dates of service on and after April 1, 2020, diagnosed cases of COVID-19 and presumptive positive COVID-19 tests should be reported with ICD-10-CM code U07.1, except in the case of newborns and obstetrics patients.

Appropriate codes for associated medical manifestations should be reported as additional diagnoses.

For discharge/dates of service before April 1, 2020, providers should follow previously communicated guidelines using the ICD-10 code for the condition as the primary diagnosis followed by B97.29 as the secondary diagnosis.

COVID-19 Testing – Procedure Codes

The American Medical Association created a new CPT code effective for dates of service on or after March 13, 2020, to describe COVID-19 testing by amplified probe technique:

- 87635 - Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique

Previously, CMS released two HCPCS codes effective for dates of service on or after February 20, 2020, available for use on April 1, 2020:

- U0001 - CDC 2019-nCoV Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel
- U0002 - 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19)

Laboratories using the CDC test kit should report U0001. Laboratories not using the CDC test kit should report 87635 if the testing method meets the code description. If your laboratory uses any other method not described by CPT 87635, HCPCS U0002 may be billed.

Zoom License for Telemedicine Services

To support needed provider network adequacy, protect members and providers, and promote access to care, WellFirst Health Plan is offering Zoom meeting licensure to providers without the ability to conduct telemedicine services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Zoom is a remote communications software that combines video conferencing, online meetings, chat, and mobile collaboration. The available licensure under the health plan will allow one clinician within your organization to provide services at a time.

Providers may contact their Provider Network Consultant if they are interested in obtaining a Zoom license to provide telehealth services.

Additional Health Plan Information

For additional health plan information and previous provider communications, refer to our [COVID-19 provider information web page](#) link at the top of all wellfirstbenefits.com web pages. Providers are encouraged to check this page regularly for new and updated information.

Please contact your assigned Provider Network Consultant with any questions.

Thank you again for your continued care of our members.

Sincerely,



Loretta A. Lorenzen
Vice President- Network Management & Contracting