



March 27, 2020

Dear Member,

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (the “Act”) will become effective on April 2, 2020 and is set to expire automatically on December 31, 2020.

The Act requires that the Alaska Teamster-Employer Welfare Trust waive cost sharing related to COVID-19 testing. Accordingly, effective April 2, 2020 the Plan is required to waive deductible, co-insurance or co-pays related to:

Testing:

- COVID-19 diagnostic products; and
- Other items and services furnished in connection with an office visit (including telehealth), urgent care visit, or emergency room visit related to seeking or obtaining COVID-19 diagnosis.

Treatment if you test positive:

The Plan’s normal PPO (in-network) and non-PPO (out-of-network) cost-sharing provisions apply.

Other changes that are effective immediately:

OptumRX:

OptumRx Prior Authorization (PA) Extension:

To meet the needs of members and to limit the burden on a stressed provider network amid the COVID-19 outbreak, OptumRx is extending existing PAs that are set to expire on or before May 1, 2020. This policy will go into effect March 19, 2020 at 12:00pm (noon) CST.

1. This intervention will ensure that convenient access to critical medications is maintained during this period when vulnerable populations are being directed to take precautionary measures.
2. OptumRx will automatically extend existing PA approvals for most chronic medications set to expire prior to May 1, 2020 for an additional 90 days.
3. OptumRx will re-evaluate the need for further extensions thereafter.
4. Drugs with significant abuse potential (i.e., opioids) or those that are dosed for finite durations or intermittently (i.e., hepatitis agents, fertility agents) as identified by OptumRx will follow normal process for renewals.
5. Prior authorization requirements for medications that are newly prescribed will remain in place.

OptumRx Specialty Medications Extended Supply Distribution:

During the COVID-19 outbreak, when a patient calls to refill their specialty medication, Optum Specialty Pharmacy will offer patients a one-time, 90-day supply of key chronic specialty medications. This policy will go into effect the week of March 23, 2020.

1. OptumRx will allow the OptumRx specialty pharmacy the ability to offer patients a one-time 90-day supply of key chronic specialty medications (versus the traditional 30-day supply).
2. Drugs within the following categories will remain limited to 30 days' supply only:
 - Acute medications
 - Controlled substances
 - Drugs subject to REMS programming requiring 30 day dispensing and monitoring
 - Drugs with limited expiration dating
 - Drugs where storage/handling issues would increase risk of waste
 - Office-administered injectable/infusible therapies
 - Drugs experiencing supply shortages
 - Drugs dosed less frequently than once monthly
 - Drugs whose monthly ingredient cost exceeds \$10,000
3. This policy will not auto-dispense medications in supplies >30 days without direct consent of the patient.
4. This policy will also not apply to patients who are newly initiated on a specialty therapy.

For questions, contact OptumRX at (877)-839-8119 or visit www.OptumRx.com

Helpful Links

State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

World Health Organization:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Alaska Teamster-Employer Service Corporation – News and Announcements

www.959trusts.com