



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 19, 2024

**TO:** All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

**FROM:** Kimberly Sullivan, Medicaid Executive Director *KLS*

**SUBJECT:** Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Coverage Update for  
At-Home Over the Counter (OTC) COVID-19 Diagnostic  
Tests- 2<sup>nd</sup> Revision

The Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program is retracting the August 28, 2024 and September 10, 2024 memos, on the reimbursement policy of at-home over the counter (OTC) COVID-19 diagnostic tests. Effective September 30, 2024, the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program will end coverage for at-home over the counter (OTC) COVID-19 diagnostic tests. Pharmacy claims are submitted to Gainwell for FFS and to Magellan for all the MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare).

**At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests**

Due to the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, the Pharmacy Program will end payment for at-home OTC COVID-19 diagnostic tests on September 30, 2024. **The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will not cover at-home COVID-19 diagnostic tests as a pharmacy benefit after September 30, 2024.** COVID tests will continue to be covered as a medical benefit. Eligible covered beneficiaries can access their healthcare provider for vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic testing as usual.

Pharmacy claims submitted for at-home OTC COVID-19 diagnostic tests will deny starting October 1, 2024.

Denial from Gainwell (FFS Only): **NCPDP rejection code 70** (Product/Service Not Covered) mapped to **EOB Code 299** (Product Not Covered).

Denial from Magellan (MCO Only): **NDPDP rejection code 70** (Product/Service Not Covered) mapped to **internal code 50076** (Not a covered pharmacy benefit).

**Additional Information:**

If you have questions about the content of this memo, you may contact the FFS pharmacy help desk by phone at (800) 437-9101.

FFS pharmacy claims should be submitted to Gainwell Technologies. MCO pharmacy claims should be submitted to Magellan.

If you have questions about pharmacy claims billing, you may contact the appropriate plan at their pharmacy help desk listed in the chart below.

Healthcare Provider	Pharmacy Help Desk	Pharmacy Help Desk Phone Number
Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, UnitedHealthcare	Magellan	(800) 424-1664
Fee for Service	Gainwell Technologies	(800) 648-0790

Please forward this notice to other providers to assist with notification. Your continued cooperation and support of the Louisiana Medicaid Program efforts to coordinate care and improve health are greatly appreciated.

KS/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans  
Melwyn B. Wendt  
Gainwell Technologies  
Magellan