

COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing Kits FAQs

Updated January 20, 2022

Magellan Rx's Role in the Pandemic

Magellan Rx was well positioned when this pandemic started as most of our support and operations functions were already set up to accommodate a “virtual world.” We are proud that we have maintained disruption-free service to our plans and members during this time.

As drugs, vaccines, and tests are being approved or authorized for COVID-19, Magellan Rx is committed to providing information that is credible and easy to understand. We have launched a [COVID-19 resources hub](#) with helpful videos and reference material related to the pandemic, clinical trials, drugs, and steps everyone can take to stay safe and informed.

OTC Test Kits for COVID-19

On January 10, 2022 the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury (collectively termed, “The Departments”) released published guidance regarding the requirement that commercial market plans and insurers cover over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests without cost sharing during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) without a health care provider’s involvement or prescription.

They also released [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) regarding the implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on January 10, 2022 regarding COVID-19 diagnostic testing. This follows President Biden’s December 2 announcement.

Magellan Rx Management is actively monitoring the COVID-19 landscape. Below you will find helpful information and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about COVID-19 diagnostic testing kits and how it applies for private insurers.

PLAN AND MEMBER FAQ

Will Magellan Rx Management cover over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 diagnostic tests coverage?

Magellan Rx Management plans to process pharmacy claims for FDA authorized, cleared, or approved OTC COVID-19 antigen tests at \$0 for members who utilize an in-network pharmacy. Members should check-out at the pharmacy counter with their pharmacy benefit (prescription) card. Members do not need a provider order or individualized clinical assessment to obtain these tests. Direct coverage at point-of-sale (POS) may only be provided for OTC COVID-19 tests with an associated National Drug Codes (NDC). Testing for employment purposes will not be covered.

Examples of FDA authorized, cleared, or approved OTC COVID-19 Antigen tests include, but are not limited to:

- BINAXNOW COVID-19 AG SELF TEST
- CARESTART COVID19 AG HOME TEST
- ELLUME COVID-19 HOME TEST
- FLOWFLEX COVID-19 AG HOME TEST
- IHEALTH COVID-19 AG RAPID TEST
- QUICKVUE AT-HOME COVID-19 TEST

Where can members purchase OTC COVID-19 tests?

Members can purchase OTC COVID-19 Tests at pharmacies using their pharmacy benefit.

When can members get OTC COVID-19 diagnostic tests at \$0 co-pay?

Effective January 15, 2022 and for the duration of the public health emergency (PHE), Magellan Rx Management plans to provide coverage of OTC, at-home, diagnostic COVID-19 antigen tests that have been authorized, cleared, or approved by the FDA. No retrospective reimbursement will be provided to members if tests are purchased prior to January 15, 2022.

How many OTC COVID-19 diagnostic tests will be covered for members?

During the PHE, Magellan Rx Management will be providing coverage of **8 tests per 30-day period per member** without cost-sharing requirements (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance), prior authorization, or other medical management requirements on such OTC COVID-19 antigen tests. This quantity limit aligns with federal guidance and our business strategies to expedite the direct coverage of OTC COVID-19 tests.

The Departments recognize that some OTC COVID-19 tests are sold in packages containing more than one test. In applying the quantity limit of 8 tests per 30-days, the Department allows plans to count each test separately, even if multiple tests are sold in one package. This quantity limit is set in place to discourage behaviors that could lead to future shortages.

Can members get more than 8 tests per 30-day period?

Members can get more than 8 tests per 30 days if the tests are ordered or administered by a health care provider following an individualized clinical assessment. This includes patients who may need more due to an underlying medical condition. Providers or pharmacies will need to outreach to the Magellan Rx Management Call Center for overrides in these special situations. Please use the phone number listed on the back of the prescription card.

If no OTC COVID-19 tests are available, where can members get tested?

Testing is crucial to combating this pandemic. Magellan Rx Management encourages members to seek COVID-19 tests at one of the many new federal testing sites around the country if OTC COVID-19 tests are inaccessible. The government has also purchased 500 million at-home rapid tests to be distributed to members for free of charge. The government has launched a website with more information on how to order free COVID-19 tests. Please visit <https://www.covidtests.gov/> for more information.

How can members submit a Direct Member Reimbursement (DMR) claim?

Members who have purchased OTC Antigen COVID-19 tests from an out-of-network pharmacy may submit their claims for reimbursement if the product was FDA authorized, cleared, or approved and has a valid NDC. The maximum reimbursement possible per test is no less than the actual price or up to \$12/test, whichever is lower. Please use the steps below to submit a request.

1. Access the member portal (<https://magellanrx.com/member/login/>)
2. Print and complete the "[Prescription Claim Form](#)"
3. Mail in the form and include the name of the OTC COVID-19 test, and a register receipt/proof of payment to the address below:
 - a. Magellan Health Services
Attention: Claims Department
11013 W. Broad Street, Suite 500
Glen Allen, VA 23060
Fax: 1-888-656-3607

Can members use their FSA/HSA card to purchase these COVID-19 tests?

If members are planning to seek reimbursement via DMR from their prescription benefit, then they cannot use their FSA/HSA card to purchase these tests.

What are the different types of COVID-19 tests available?

There are two main diagnostic tests available to detect infection with SARS-CoV-2; the rapid Antigen test and the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

- A PCR test is performed to detect the presence of a virus if you are infected at the time of the test. It could also detect fragments of the virus even after you are no longer infected. PCR tests are generally performed by a health care provider, require the submission of a sample to a lab, and can take a few days to process. Results may be received within 1-3 days of testing.

- A rapid antigen test can detect the presence of a virus similar to a PCR test. They are less expensive, can be purchased at a variety of pharmacies, and produce results within 10-15 minutes of testing. Antigen tests can be used in screening programs to quickly identify those who are likely to be contagious. However, they are less sensitive than most PCR tests and may be necessary to confirm antigen test results with a PCR test.

For more information regarding different types of COVID-19 tests available, please visit credible sites, such as the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#).

What educational resources are out there for members regarding OTC COVID-19 tests?

Magellan Rx Management has launched a [COVID-19 resources hub](#) with helpful videos and reference material related to the pandemic, clinical trials, drugs, and steps everyone can take to stay safe and informed. For more information regarding OTC COVID-19 tests, please visit reputable sources such as:

- [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)