


<b>ISSUE DATE</b>  October 1, 2020	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>  October 1, 2020	<b>NUMBER</b>  24-20-02
<b>SUBJECT</b>  COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Testing at Pharmacies	<b>BY</b>  Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs	

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISE to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISE-Enrollment.aspx>.

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin is to notify pharmacies that effective October 1, 2020, the Department of Human Services (Department) will pay pharmacies for the collection of specimens by pharmacists for COVID-19 testing.

## **SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all pharmacies enrolled in the MA Program.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On April 13, Pennsylvania's Department of State (DOS) issued [guidance](#) that granted licensed pharmacists the authority to order, administer tests, and communicate results for COVID-19 tests.

In response to the DOS guidance and consistent with the Administration's commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all Commonwealth citizens, the MA Program, both the fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems, will pay pharmacies for the collection of COVID-19 specimens by licensed pharmacists.

## **DISCUSSION:**

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx>.

The Department created the Provider Specialty Type of 247 (Pharmacist) for pharmacies to use when billing for COVID-19 specimen collection by pharmacists. Pharmacy's should complete a [PROMISe™ Provider Service Location Change Request](#), to add the new specialty to their existing provider file.

The Department also added the COVID-19 specimen collection code below to the MA Program Fee Schedule, effective with dates of service on and after October 1, 2020, as follows for the FFS delivery system:

Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Provider Type/ Specialty	Place of Service	MA Fee	Limits	Prior Authorization Required
G2023	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source	24/247	11	\$10	1 per day	N

Pharmacies that render services in the MA managed care delivery system should address billing or payment questions to the appropriate managed care organization.

Pharmacies must be enrolled in the MA Program as a laboratory to be paid to test the COVID-19 specimen collected by the pharmacist. Pharmacies enrolled in the MA Program as a laboratory should refer to MA Bulletin [28-20-01](#) for information regarding covered COVID-19 tests.

Pharmacies that are enrolled as a laboratory may receive payment for either the collection of the COVID-19 specimen or for performing the COVID-19 test; but not both as the MA payment to a laboratory includes payment for specimen collection, performance of the test and generation of the laboratory report.

Pharmacies that receive payment from another source for the collection of the specimen or the COVID-19 testing may not bill or receive payment from the MA Program for the specimen collection.

**PROCEDURE:**

Effective with dates of service on and after October 1, 2020, pharmacies may bill the MA Program for the collection of COVID-19 specimens by licensed pharmacists. An order is required for a pharmacy to be paid for either the collection of the COVID-19 specimen or for performing the COVID-19 test.

In the FFS delivery system, the MA Program does not make direct payments to licensed pharmacists. Pharmacies must bill for the COVID-19 specimen collection using the PA PROMISe™– 837 Health Care Claim: Professionals. Professional claims submitted by pharmacies must include the NPI number of the provider who is the ordering pharmacist or other practitioner on the claim. The pharmacy should identify itself as the rendering and billing provider on the claim. For more information on the PROMISe™ Provider Handbook and Pharmacy Billing procedures please refer to the website link: [here](#).

### **Other Resources**

Information about the MA Program and coverage related to COVID-19, can be found on the Department's website: [here](#).

DOH has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click: [here](#) for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.