

AP Producer News

Regence/Asuris Offer Guidance on OTC COVID-19 Testing Reimbursement

January 14, 2022

Covered members eligible Jan. 15 to be reimbursed for up to 8 over-the-counter at-home tests per month.

Dear Valued Producer,

With [federal guidelines mandating coverage](#) of at-home COVID-19 tests starting January 15, 2022, Regence and Asuris are offering the below guidance, which is also being updated as needed on their respective COVID-19 Resources pages (see below for links).

The policy released this week allows members to be reimbursed by their health plan for up to eight free over-the-counter (OTC) at-home tests per person enrolled in the plan per month.

If health plans provide direct coverage of tests through their pharmacy network and a direct-to-consumer program, plan reimbursements for tests bought from nonpreferred pharmacies and retailers would be capped at the actual price or \$12, whichever is lower. Note that some OTC tests are packaged with two tests, meaning reimbursement would be \$12 for each test, or \$24.

The policy requires coverage for diagnostic reasons only, meaning you have symptoms or were in close contact with an infected person. Plans are not required to provide coverage of testing (including an at-home OTC COVID-19 test) for purposes including, but not limited to the following:

- Employment purposes, including staffing decisions
- Surveillance
- Community tracking
- Extracurricular activities (e.g. travel, sports, school, camp, recreational, social requirement)

To stay updated on this timely topic, check back frequently on the below linked [Regence COVID-19 Resources](#) page and/or the [Asuris COVID-19 Resources](#) pages.

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