



September 22, 2020

**RE: Update on Temporary COVID-19 Authorization Requirements**

Dear Provider:

In March, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, notified providers of its temporary authorization requirement changes that were put in place to assist with relieving the administrative burden on participating facilities for emergent COVID-19 related care.

*The temporary authorization provisions do not apply for non-participating and/or out-of-state facilities. For these providers, our usual processes will apply.*

We notified you in March 2020 of the temporary provisions that were effective for dates of service March 16 to April 30, 2020. We later notified you in May that we were extending the provisions to May 31, 2020. A copy of both letters can be found our COVID-19 Provider Resources page, located at [www.BCBSLA.com/providers](http://www.BCBSLA.com/providers), then click on the "COVID-19 Provider Resources" link at the top of the page.

We have since reviewed and made updates for the following provisions:

Service	Temporary Provision
COVID-19 Testing	No authorization is required through December 31, 2020
Emergent services that are medically necessary and consistent with CDC guidance for members diagnosed with COVID-19	No authorization is required at this time
Transfers from an Acute Care Hospital to an LTACH, SNF or Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility	Waiver of authorization ends on September 20, 2020. Effective for dates of service on and after September 21, 2020, an authorization is required.
Extension of hospital stays for additional days through discharge date	Authorization is required for non-COVID-19 diagnosed services as of June 1, 2020

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Blue Cross will continue to notify providers of updated authorization and billing guidelines as new developments occur. Thank you for working with us to serve our members, especially during this time of uncertainty. Please continue to communicate with Blue Cross as your needs change to meet the COVID-19 crisis. We value you as a key part of our provider networks and the services you bring to our members—your patients.

### **Contact Us**

If you have questions about the billing of COVID-19, you may send an email to our Provider Relations Department at [provider.relations@bcbsla.com](mailto:provider.relations@bcbsla.com). Please put "COVID-19 Billing" in the subject line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hiral Arges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and "A".

Hiral Arges  
VP, Provider Relations and Contracting  
Network Administration

HA/mdm