

March 6, 2020

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst) has made important benefit changes for our members to remove cost and other barriers to care related to COVID-19. To ensure our members can access needed care during the outbreak, the following updates were made effective March 6, 2020:

- **CareFirst will cover medically necessary diagnostic tests that are consistent with CDC guidance related to COVID-19 without member cost share.** CareFirst will cover, with no cost share to the member, the appropriate medically necessary diagnostic testing for COVID-19, where it is not covered as part of the Public Health Service response, and ensure patient testing and any subsequently needed care are done in close coordination with federal, state and public health authorities.
- **CareFirst has eliminated prior authorization requirements for diagnostic tests and covered services that are medically necessary and consistent with CDC guidance for members diagnosed with COVID-19.** Additionally, members can call the customer service phone number on the back of their member ID card for help with questions related to medical services.
- **CareFirst is waiving early medication refill limits on 30-day maintenance medications (consistent with a member's benefit plan) and encouraging members to use their 90-day mail order benefit.** Member cost sharing will apply as normal. We will also ensure formulary flexibility if there are shortages or access issues. Members will not be liable for additional charges that stem from obtaining a non-preferred medication if the preferred medication is not available due to shortage or access issues.

We will continue to share timely updates with you as the situation evolves.

As a reminder, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#) remains the best resource for information on preventing and treating the coronavirus. We will also be updating our [website](#) as new information is made available.

* CareFirst will follow IRS guidance for members who are enrolled in high-deductible health plans.