

New COVID Mandates in Effect January 15th, 2022

The Biden administration has mandated that group health plans must cover over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests. The mandate takes effect on January 15th. In addition, the mandate declares that there will be no member cost share or copays when purchasing an OTC test. Health plans must cover eight individual at-home OTC COVID-19 tests per person enrolled in the plan per month. A family of five (all enrolled in a group plan) can get 40 tests per month for free.

Key points

Effective Date: January 15th, 2022

Reimbursement: The plan can provide coverage by reimbursing the sellers, or by requiring plan participants to purchase the test, then submit a claim afterwards. The latter is referred to as "Direct Coverage" which is strongly encouraged.

Test Limit: 8 per month per covered individual in a group health plan.

Tests MUST be approved by the FDA to be eligible.

For additional information, CMS has issues a FAQ, found [here](#)

As additional information becomes available, we will be in touch.