


To: All Providers Participating in Nebraska Medicaid Program
From: Jeremy Brunssen, Interim Director 
Date: May 1, 2020 (Updated May 13, 2020)
Re: Temporary Suspension of Medicaid Copays

Nebraska Medicaid is temporarily waiving certain policies to support providers in efficiently meeting patient needs during COVID-19 emergency. Nebraska has sought emergency federal authority to implement these changes.

Nebraska Medicaid is temporarily suspending copay requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries in order to support beneficiaries through the COVID-19 emergency. This suspension applies to all Nebraskans enrolled in Medicaid, including both individuals on a Heritage Health plan and Fee-for-Service clients. Effective May 1, 2020, the suspension of copays applies to:

- All Medications
- All Services

The State and the Heritage Health plans will continue to pay the Medicaid-allowed amount for services and medications and will not reduce payments for services that previously had been subject to copayments.

The technology updates needed to implement these changes may not appear beginning May 1, 2020 due to requirements for system changes. If a copay appears to be required from a patient at the point of sale or the point of service, the provider should not collect the copay.

Also beginning May 1, 2020, MCOs will identify any patients who had a COVID-19 diagnosis between March 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020 and were required to pay a copay for medications or services. The MCOs will work with providers directly to reimburse copays to those identified patients.

This suspension of copay requirements is temporary, will not exceed the duration of the public health emergency. Nebraska Medicaid will continue to monitor the COVID-19 emergency and will communicate any change to the copay waiver.

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.

DHHS has a dedicated COVID-19 web page at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

The CDC's dedicated page is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>