

**An Important Message from
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission
(HHSC)**

**Quantity Change To COVID Home Tests Per Month for Medicaid, CHIP
Members**

Background:

Medicaid and CHIP members are currently allowed to receive four home tests per month. HHSC was required to submit a state plan amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to receive federal funding for home tests during the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) COVID coverage period. In order to receive approval for the SPA, CMS required HHSC to increase coverage to eight home tests per month to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation to follow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's guidelines.

Key Details:

To adhere to this change, UnitedHealthcare® (UHC) Community Plan of Texas will continue to allow members to receive four home tests per month without prior approval and also start allowing up to four additional home tests per month with approval from the health plan through a pharmacy call center override.

UHC will not allow pharmacies to automatically fill or solicit members for COVID home test prescriptions. Pharmacies should only fill prescriptions when a member directly requests COVID home tests.

This change may expire on Sept. 30, 2024, at the end of the ARPA COVID coverage period. HHSC can make additional changes to the COVID home test policy once the ARPA coverage period ends, including requiring a prescription for COVID home tests, to address concerns regarding overutilization and fraud, waste, and abuse. HHSC will communicate these changes soon.

Questions? We're here to help.

Please contact your physician advocate or call UnitedHealthcare Provider Services at 888-887-9003, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday.