PHARMACY COVERAGE

UnitedHealth Group is better together. We’d like to share a quick video clip from Optum and UnitedHealth Group collectively working together to make a difference in the COVID-19 crisis: https://www.optum.com/content/dam/optum3/optum/en/resources/videos-podcasts/optum-grateful-cv19web.mp4

Does UnitedHealthcare cover outpatient monoclonal antibody treatment? Update 4/1/2021

The FDA has issued emergency use authorization for 2 monoclonal antibody treatments. According to the CDC, monoclonal antibody treatments may be recommended by a member’s provider if they test positive for COVID-19, and are at risk to get very sick or to be admitted to the hospital. This treatment can help the body respond more effectively to the virus.

A summary of coverage for monoclonal antibody treatment is below. Sign in to your online UnitedHealthcare member account for more details.

- Exchange, Individual and Fully Insured Employer-sponsored plans: For monoclonal antibody treatments, you will have $0 cost-share with network providers in outpatient settings through Mar. 31, 2021 and then will pay at plan benefits beginning April 1, 2021. Other COVID-19 outpatient treatments will be according to the member’s benefit plan. Some self-insured health plans have different coverage benefits; if you have questions, please check with your human resources benefits team. Coverage for out-of-network services will be determined by your benefit plan.

- Medicare Advantage plans: For monoclonal antibody treatments, you will have $0 cost-share with in-network and out-of-network providers in outpatient settings through 2021. Medicare is paying for this treatment in 2021.

Are there any Anti-viral pills that have been authorized by the FDA for emergency use? New 12/27/21

The following two antiviral pills were authorized as emergency use (EUA) by the FDA. These pills should be available by early January 2022 when ordered by a medical professional for use as indicated where appropriate.

1) Paxlovid (Pfizer) - EUA on December 22, 2021
   - Ingredients - nirmatrelvir, ritonavir (co-packaged)

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• Use - Mild-moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40kg) with positive results of direct severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) viral testing, and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.
  – Not authorized for initiation of treatment in patients requiring hospitalization due to severe or critical COVID-19
  – Not authorized for pre-exposure or post-exposure prophylaxis or prevention
  – Not authorized for use longer than 5 consecutive days

2) Molnupiravir (Merck) - EUA on December 23, 2021
• Ingredients - Molnupiravir
• Use - Mild-moderate COVID-19 in adults 18 and older with positive results of direct severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) viral testing, and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death and for whom alternative COVID-19 treatment options authorized by FDA are not accessible or clinically appropriate.
  – Not authorized for initiation of treatment in patients requiring hospitalization due to severe or critical COVID-19
  – Not authorized for pre-exposure or post-exposure prophylaxis or prevention
  – Not authorized for use longer than 5 consecutive days