July 10, 2020

Ms. Maureen M. Corcoran, Director
Dr. Donald Wharton, Assistant Medical Director
Ms. Tracey Archibald, PharmD, Pharmacy Program Manager
Ohio Department of Medicaid
50 West Town Street, Suite 400
Columbus, OH 43215

Sent via electronic mail

Re: Product Identifier for COVID-19 Test Specimen Collection Supplies without an assigned NDC

Dear Ms. Corcoran, Dr. Wharton, and Ms. Archibald:

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) is a not-for-profit, ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer (ASD) consisting of more than 1700 members who represent drug manufacturers, chain and independent pharmacies, drug wholesalers, insurers, mail order prescription drug companies, pharmaceutical claims processors, pharmacy benefit managers, physician services organizations, prescription drug providers, software vendors, telecommunication vendors, service organizations, government agencies, professional societies, and other parties interested in electronic standardization within the pharmacy services sector of the healthcare industry. NCPDP provides a forum wherein our diverse membership can develop solutions, including ANSI-accredited standards, and guidance for promoting information exchanges related to medications, supplies, and services within the healthcare system.

In May 2020, the *NCPDP Emergency Preparedness Information Version 1.7* document was published and provides guidance to assist pharmacists in their expanded role of administering tests, including serology tests, and other services in the COVID-19 pandemic and global public health crisis. It addresses a range of considerations related to COVID-19 testing to facilitate the exchange of data through NCPDP's interoperable industry standards.

On June 26, 2020, NCPDP released additional guidance (please refer to Appendix A) on the product identifier to utilize when a specimen collection product does not have an assigned product ID (e.g., NDC). The Maintenance and Control Emergency Preparedness Task Group agreed through NCPDP's consensus building process to adopt a standard product identifier to use during a declared emergency when there is no product identifier for the product being used to collect the specimen. The product identifier of 99999-0992-11 (COVID-19 Test Specimen Collection) was created for this purpose and added by all the drug data compendia. This product identifier aligns with existing systems and may be used by a pharmacy to submit a claim to a patient's pharmacy benefit for the test specimen collection product or service.

NCPDP recommends lab test supply providers (aka test manufacturers) obtain a Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) or Unique Device Identifier (UDI) when the test specimen collection products become commercially available. Information can be found in the UDI Labeler Resources on the NCPDP website.

In its June 29, 2020 memo to Ohio Medicaid pharmacies, the Ohio Department of Medicaid provided an NDC of 99999-5000-04 for test specimen collection supplies previously not assigned an NDC. NCPDP respectfully requests OH Medicaid pharmacies be instructed to use 99999-0992-11 during the declared COVID-19 emergency to promote consistency and standardization within the pharmacy industry and facilitate claims processing in existing systems.

NCPDP appreciates your time and attention to this matter.

For direct inquiries or questions related to this letter, please contact:

Terry Fortin
Assistant Senior Manager, Standards Development
NCPDP
E: standards @ncpdp.org

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Stember President & CEO
NCPDP
9240 East Raintree Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85260
(480) 477-1000, ext. 108
(602) 321-6363 cell

cc:
NCPDP Board of Trustees

Appendix A

FAQ: Emergency Use Product Service Identifier

Question: When the specimen collection product does not have a product ID, what should be submitted as the Product/Service ID (407-D7) for a specimen collection claim represented with the Professional Service Code (440-E5) value of MA – Medication Administered (Specimen Collection)?

Answer: If there is no product identifier on the product being used to collect the specimen, during a declared emergency the Product/Service ID of 99999-0992-11 (COVID-19 Test Specimen Collection), with the Product/Service ID Qualifier (436-E1) of 03 – National Drug Code can be used.

NDC Number	99999-0992-11
Product Name	COVID-19 Test Specimen Collection
Rx or OTC	OTC
Package Size (ml, gm, each)	1 each
Manufacturer's Suggested Wholesale Price (SWP)	$0.01*
1st Ship Date (New products)	6/19/20
Active Ingredients & Strengths	Does not apply
Labeler/Manufacturer Name	NCPDP Emergency Preparedness

*Operating systems may require a populated price to process a claim; $0.01 signals the trading partners that this is a "no charge" item.