Pharmacy Benefact

Pharmacy-based Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing Program

In March 2020, the Alberta government collaborated with The Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) to implement a new billing code for pharmacists to help Albertans assess and screen for COVID-19 as part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alberta has one of the highest COVID-19 testing rates in the Canada and the world. In the current phase of relaunch, there is an opportunity for Alberta pharmacists to play an extended role in COVID-19 testing and improve Alberta's ability to determine the prevalence of COVID-19 infection and aid the provincial pandemic response.

The pharmacy COVID-19 response already includes the Assessment to Screen and/or Test for Infectious Disease (assessment code 0071120, SSC - L) which will remain in effect for symptomatic patients and may be claimed to a maximum of five claims per pharmacy per day. Pharmacies may refer to Benefact Number 847 issued in March 2020 for further details.

Effective June 25, 2020, Alberta Health is introducing a new pharmacy-based program to increase testing availability, access, and capacity for asymptomatic Albertans. This information will help you as you participate in the program. Please refer to the following information about the claiming process.

Service expectations

The pharmacist must meet all program requirements of the Pharmacy Asymptomatic Testing Program for screening and testing.

Eligibility

Any Albertan with a valid Personal Health Number that is asymptomatic and has no known exposures to COVID-19 within the past 14 days. The patient must first be screened using the AHS online self-assessment tool. Only asymptomatic patients can receive testing by a pharmacist.

Claim submission

Claim submission is a two-step process if a test is completed. Only a pharmacist with a valid Practice Identification Number (PRAC-ID) may submit claims for this service.

Step one—A claim may be submitted for the **Assessment to Screen for Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19** (assessment code 0071121, SSC - L).

- A patient is eligible for one screening assessment per day for a fee of $20.

- A patient cannot receive both the **Assessment to Screen and/or Test for Infectious Disease** in the same day they receive the **Assessment to Screen for Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19**.

Step two—A claim may only be submitted for **COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing Sample Collection** (assessment code 0071122, SSC - L), pursuant to the completion of the **Assessment to Screen for Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19** for the same patient.

- A patient is eligible for one administered test per day for a fee of $22, which covers the service as well as the costs of PPE to perform the test. The pharmacist must have a claim for **Assessment to Screen for Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19** (assessment code 0071121, SSC - L) accepted for the patient first.

- The service includes obtaining consent from the patient, requisition, collection of sample, notification of results and documentation.

Further, a pharmacy may submit one claim per day for pickup of test kits from the lab, and one claim per day for return of test kits to the lab, for **COVID-19 Test Kit/Sample Transportation** (assessment code 0071123, SSC - L)

- The pharmacy is eligible for transportation of the samples to the laboratory for a fee of $10. On days where the pharmacy may need to pick up test kits from the laboratory, an additional $10 claim may be submitted on the same day by a pharmacy for test kit pickup.

- As the claim is eligible by pharmacy and not by patient, a Pseudo PHN of CV0000000 can be used to submit the claim.

Documenting the service

Pharmacists are expected to document the services accordingly.

For the **Assessment to Screen for Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19**, a pharmacist should ensure an electronic or written record includes the following information:

- Patient demographics including: patient Name, DOB, address, phone, Personal Health Number (PHN).

- The date and time of the Assessment to Screen.

- The name of the family physician if provided.

- A summary of the result of the patient assessment to screen, including the level of risk identified and recommendation (example, but not limited to, call Health Link, self-isolate, etc.).

- Netcare should be accessed to check for client history of previous testing to determine if client has had a positive result in the last 14 days.

- The name of the pharmacist providing the service.

A documentation template, Patient Screening Template, is available from RxA.

For the **COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing Sample Collection**, a pharmacist should ensure an electronic or written record includes the following information:

- A confirmation statement indicating the pharmacist has administered the test according to the program protocols established by AHS including the following:

    - ✓ Patient Screened as Asymptomatic (**AHS Self-Assessment Screening Tool**).

    - ✓ Patient Consent Script read with patient including testing protocols and results notification. Consent provided.
    - ✓ **APL Zone Specific Lab Requisition** for COVID-19 Throat Swab Sample Completed.
    - ✓ **Environmental Controls** and **Infection Control Protocols** were in place prior to testing.
    - ✓ **PPE donned** (mask, gloves, face shield/goggles) according to guidelines.
    - ✓ Swab and Test kit prepared and ready for sample collection.
    - ✓ Patient informed of sample collection procedure, experience and potential discomfort.
    - ✓ **Throat swab sample** collected as per protocol.
    - ✓ Sample placed in collection media as per protocol.
    - ✓ Sample packaged and labelled with patient information and requisition completed as per protocol.
    - ✓ Results notification reviewed with patient and contact information confirmed.
    - ✓ Patient released from testing area.
    - ✓ Collected samples stored as per protocols and readied for return to APL.
    - ✓ Environmental Controls, Infections Control Protocols and **PPE doffing** completed AFTER sample collection completed and patient released.
- The name of the pharmacist administering the test and the date of the test.

A documentation template, Patient Screening Template, is available from RxA.

For the **COVID-19 Test Kit/Sample Transportation**, a pharmacist should ensure an electronic or written record includes the following information:

- A statement indicating if the claim was for pickup of test kits to the lab or for return of completed tests to the lab
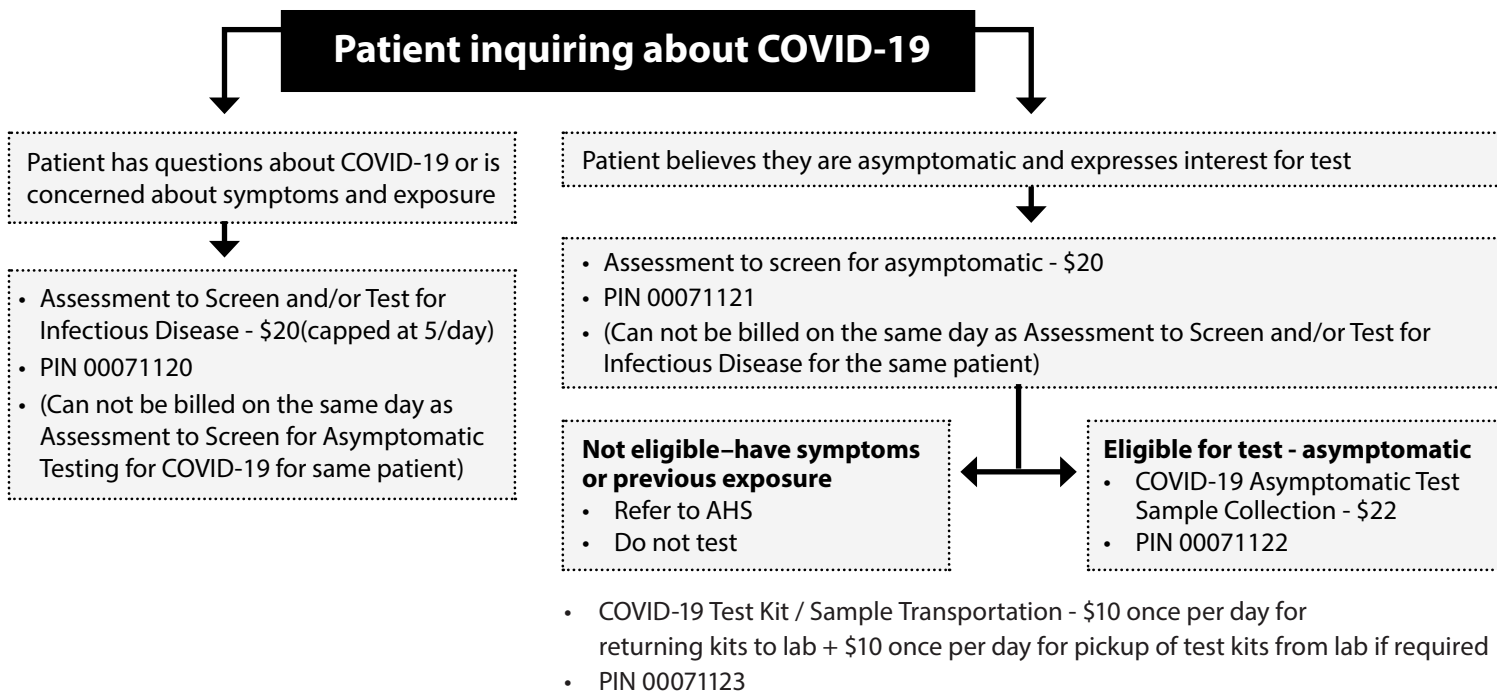
Claim elements

The individual's Personal Health Number (PHN) will be used to confirm eligibility. Incorrect submission of the client's eligibility will result in claim rejections with the response code of C8—No record of this beneficiary. Compensation for the services are limited as described above, any additional submitted claims will be subject compliance verification and potential recovery. This service can be claimed in addition to another pharmacy service on the same day (for example, this service and Assessment for a Prescription Renewal could both be claimed for the same patient on the same day except for The Assessment to Screen and/or Test for Infectious Disease).

All claims must be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT claims adjudication system with the following data elements:

- Carrier code 16 (as the third-party plan).
- Group number for all transactions must be 23464, Section 000.
- Pharmacy license number.
- Pharmacist identification number.
- Client number: client's Personal Health Number (PHN) as the client number.
- Client's full name: last and first name.
- Client's date of birth.
- Client's gender.
- Relationship code: should your software require you to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default.
- Prescriber reference ID number.
- Service date.
- Applicable PIN and Special Service Code.

Pharmacy-based COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing Program – Eligible Billing

Patient inquiring about COVID-19

Patient has questions about COVID-19 or is concerned about symptoms and exposure

- Assessment to Screen and/or Test for Infectious Disease - $20(capped at 5/day)
- PIN 00071120
- (Can not be billed on the same day as Assessment to Screen for Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19 for same patient)

Patient believes they are asymptomatic and expresses interest for test

- Assessment to screen for asymptomatic - $20
- PIN 00071121
- (Can not be billed on the same day as Assessment to Screen and/or Test for Infectious Disease for the same patient)

Not eligible–have symptoms or previous exposure
- Refer to AHS
- Do not test

Eligible for test - asymptomatic
- COVID-19 Asymptomatic Test Sample Collection - $22
- PIN 00071122

- COVID-19 Test Kit / Sample Transportation - $10 once per day for returning kits to lab + $10 once per day for pickup of test kits from lab if required
- PIN 00071123

When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) • **403-294-4041** (Calgary and area) • **1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) • **FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. **Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php**

ALBERTA BLUE CROSS®