

A L E R T

April 21, 2023

TO: Hospital Providers

RE: COVID-19 Unwinding – Changes to Hospital Allowances

Per federal guidance, the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) will end on May 11, 2023. Therefore, some flexibilities the Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid) implemented due to the COVID-19 PHE will end at this time. Medicaid intends to keep providers updated on changes that will be forthcoming during the return to normal operations. Medicaid is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to prepare to end some flexibilities implemented during the COVID-19 PHE. Notice of changes will be provided through additional notices via State Plan notice, Administrative Code notice, waiver notice, or provider ALERTs.

Below are some changes that are forthcoming:

Medicaid will:

- Discontinue allowance of extending inpatient stays for recipients in response to the COVID-19 pandemic ready for discharge and awaiting placement in a LTC setting.
- Discontinue 20% increase in per diem rates for COVID-19 for patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis for inpatient stays.
- Discontinue hospital billing of Q3014 (telemedicine origination site facility fee) on a UB-04 claim type for outpatient clinic services provided via telemedicine to a Medicaid recipient in their home.

As noted in previous ALERTs:

- Effective May 12, 2023, recipient signatures are required to be kept on file as verification that the recipient was present on the date of service for which the provider seeks payment. More information can be found in the Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Rule No. 560-X-1-.18 Provider and Recipient Signature Requirements.
- Effective June 1, 2023, providers should no longer bill the CR modifier for COVID-19 related services or equipment.
- Effective October 1, 2024, copayments will be reinstated for applicable services and recipients.

Medicaid is working with the CMS to prepare to end other flexibilities implemented during the COVID-19 PHE. Please continue to visit the Alabama Medicaid website for up-to-date information related to the “unwinding” process.

If you have questions, please contact the Provider Assistance Line at (800) 688-7989.