AlohaCare Provider Advisory

CARES ACT PROVIDER RELIEF FUND
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is providing additional opportunities for Providers to qualify for federal enhanced COVID-19 related relief payments for:

• Clinicians that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs and/or Medicaid and CHIP managed care organizations. Examples of providers serving Medicaid/CHIP beneficiaries possibly eligible for this funding, include pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists, dentists, opioid treatment and behavioral health providers, assisted living facilities, and other home and community-based services providers.

• Safety net hospitals that serve a disproportionate number of Medicaid patients or provide large amounts of uncompensated care.

Please check out https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/providers/index.html#enhanced-provider-relief for more information on how you may qualify. Several funding opportunities are available that have fast approaching application deadlines.

GUIDANCE ON SARS-COV-2 ANTIBODY TESTING
The Hawaii Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD) issued guidance in June 2020 for the coverage of the SARS-CoV-2 Antibody serology test for the QUEST Integration (QI) program. AlohaCare will cover a SARS-CoV-2 Antibody serology test performed on or after April 10, 2020, when the following requirements are met:

1. The test being utilized received FDA approval and granted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), and is listed on the Food & Drug Administration’s website
2. The test meets medical necessity criteria which include, but are not limited to the following:
   A. As a method to support the diagnosis of acute COVID-19 illness for persons who present late with complications of COVID-19 illness such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children;
MQD also cited examples where Antibody testing will not be covered, which followed CMS guidelines and included the following:

1. When serologic testing is used to determine immune status in individuals until the presence, durability, and duration of immunity is established.
2. When serologic testing is used to make decisions about grouping persons residing in or being admitted to congregate settings, such as schools, dormitories, or correctional facilities.
3. When serologic testing is used to make decisions about returning persons to the workplace.
4. When serologic testing is used as the sole basis to diagnose an acute infection.

**Billing Guidelines - CPT Codes:**
Acceptable codes include the following:

- CPT 86328 – immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semi-quantitative, single strip method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19])
- CPT 86769 – Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

**Modifier**
Add modifier KX to the service code line to acknowledge and certify that the testing meets the EUA and Medical Necessity criteria. Providers may be required to provide documentation that supports the EUA and Medical Necessity criteria when requested as part of an audit. Failure to provide the requested information could result in payment recovery for all paid claims for the service code.

**References**

Med-QUEST Memorandum QI-2021 -
EXPANDED TELEHEALTH SERVICES STILL IN EFFECT

Telehealth services have allowed patients to receive needed care from their providers in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Patients were able to take advantage of these services as CMS and MQD relaxed requirements and allowed the coverage of services delivered through telephone calls and other modalities as telehealth services.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, daily reports of infection spikes that are occurring locally, nationally, and abroad abound. It is clear that we must remain vigilant about continuing to practice safety precautions, especially as we start to open up our economy, including allowing in-person medical office visits.

As you reopen your practice, please remember that expanded telehealth options can help you deliver care to your patients, especially those who are at-risk or are more vulnerable, and should continue to stay at home. Telehealth services can ease a patient’s concerns about receiving medical care without increasing exposure to COVID.

Telehealth CPT codes and billing instructions are available in our April Provider Advisories at [www.alohacare.org](http://www.alohacare.org). If you need a tool to connect with your patient, we may be able to help. AlohaCare has a limited number of Zoom licenses that we can offer to our contracted providers. You can obtain more information, pose a question or make a request by sending an email to jmather@alohacare.org.