
MEMORANDUM

TO: All Health Plan Participants
FROM: The Board of Trustees
SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID-19)
DATE: March 13, 2020

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the Cedar Rapids Electrical Workers Local 405 Health & Welfare Fund took action to ensure our members have appropriate access for testing of and treatment for the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We want to strongly encourage anyone who may have been exposed to the virus to get tested and take the appropriate steps to receive care if a test is positive.

We are:

- **Waiving prior authorization processes.** Wellmark will waive prior authorization processes for covered services related to COVID-19 to ensure patients receive the right care at the right time and location.
- **Waiving cost-share for tests.** Members will have no cost-share for appropriate testing to establish the diagnosis of COVID-19.
- **Increasing access to prescription medications.** Starting April 1, 2020, Wellmark prescription drug benefit plans will allow for early refill and we encourage the use of 90-day retail and mail order benefits. We also will ensure formulary flexibility if there are medication shortages or other access issues. Members will not be responsible for any additional charges if they receive a non-formulary medication as a result of a shortage.
- **Offering virtual health care visits and 24/7 help.** We are encouraging our members to take advantage of virtual visits—a covered benefit with no cost-share when you use [Doctor On Demand](#)®—to avoid the spread of germs. Members also have access to Wellmark’s [BeWell 24/7](#)SM service which connects members to real people who can help with a variety of health-related concerns 24/7.

Wellmark is keeping us informed

Wellmark continues to use the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), [Iowa Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH), and [South Dakota Health Department](#) as our official sources of information. For the latest U.S. impacts of COVID-19, please see the data reported by the [CDC](#).

To learn more about Wellmark’s response to coronavirus, please visit [Wellmark.com/coronavirus](https://www.wellmark.com/coronavirus).

Enhancements to our Short Term Disability Benefits

If a member is diagnosed with or quarantined because of Coronavirus (COVID-19) the 14 day waiting period and other restrictions for short-term disability will be waived so the member will begin receiving disability benefits on the 1st day. This will help relieve some of the financial burden caused by not being able to work.

If you are diagnosed with Coronavirus or quarantined, please notify Auxiant immediately to begin the process of applying for disability benefits. 1-800-475-2232 ext. 1220.