



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

March 20, 2020

TO: All Acute Care Hospitals and Specialty Heart Hospital

FROM: Judith Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA,
Commissioner

RE: Response to COVID-19 and Testing for Patients Who are Uninsured

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide guidance to all acute care hospitals and one specialty heart hospital licensed to operate in New Jersey ("hospitals") as the State responds to the global Coronavirus ("COVID-19") outbreak. COVID-19 is a respiratory infection caused by a novel virus that arose in December 2019. Once a person is infected, the virus causes respiratory illness. Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. The risk from these outbreaks depends on the characteristics of the virus, including how well it spreads between people, the severity of the resulting illness, and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, medications or vaccines).

To ensure that cost-sharing is not a barrier to testing for COVID-19, the Department of Health ("Department") is instructing hospitals not to charge uninsured patients for (1) the CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR diagnostic test panel and (2) COVID-19-related ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes communicated through the Medicaid Newsletter.

Specifically, for patients who are determined to be uninsured, and not eligible for the New Jersey Medicaid program or the New Jersey Hospital Care Payment Assistance Program (Charity Care) program, the hospital may submit the cost for (1) the CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR diagnostic test panel and (2) COVID-19-related ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes communicated through the Medicaid Newsletter. Hospitals are instructed to submit a claim for these services to the State through the customary Medicaid electronic claim processing system as a charity care claim according to the forthcoming instruction memorandum from the Office of Hospital Finance and Charity Care. This is effective from the date of this bulletin until such time as the State notifies hospitals of the program expiration.

Specific instructions regarding properly coding and processing the charity care claim will be forthcoming in a memorandum from the Office of Hospital Finance and Charity Care.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judith M. Persichilli", written over a horizontal line.