

**An Important Message from
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

At-Home COVID-19 Test Kit Prescription Begins July 1, 2026

Background:

Beginning July 1, 2026, at-home COVID-19 test kits through the outpatient drug benefit will require a prescription.

Key Details:

There are no impacts or changes to the maximum limit of four test kits per month for members. A prescription for every Medicaid pharmacy claim is a federal requirement that was lifted during the pandemic. The prescription requirement also applies to other products, such as mosquito repellent.

A standing order for at-home COVID-19 test kits is considered a prescription. The pharmacy must ensure they include the 10-digit Prescriber National Provider Identifier on the claim. A pharmacy and physician collaborative practice agreement does not require approval by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP). However, a pharmacist is required to provide a copy of the protocol to the TSBP per Texas Administrative Code Rule section 295.13 (“Drug Therapy Management by a Pharmacist under Written Protocol of a Physician”). Refer to TSBP for more information on collaborative practice agreements.

Action:

MCOs must enforce the prescription requirement beginning July 1.

Questions?

For questions, please contact **UnitedHealthcare Customer Service at 888-887-9003, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday.**