ForwardHealth ALERT❗
Wisconsin serving you

TO

Blood Banks, Community Health Centers, Hospital Providers, Independent Labs, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses in Independent Practice, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Rural Health Clinics, Tribal Federally Qualified Health Centers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

REGARDING

COVID-19 Unwinding: Procedure Codes for High Throughput COVID-19 Laboratory Testing

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During the federal COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the federal government allowed the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to implement temporary changes to some policies to facilitate the protection of member health. ForwardHealth Alert 016, "ForwardHealth-Accepted Procedure Codes from Eligible Providers Who Test Medicaid-Enrolled Members for COVID-19," outlined certain ForwardHealth-covered Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System procedure codes for COVID-19 laboratory testing.

The federal government has announced that the COVID-19 PHE will end on May 11, 2023. Effective May 11, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will end-date the following procedure codes for high throughput COVID-19 laboratory testing:

- U0003 (Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2] [Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)], amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R)
- U0004 (2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCov [COVID-19], any technique, multiple types or subtypes [includes all targets], non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R)

As of May 12, 2023, these procedure codes will no longer be covered by ForwardHealth.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of **HEALTH SERVICES**

COVID-19 Unwinding Resources

For more information regarding COVID-19 Unwinding, refer to the following resources:

- ForwardHealth Update 2023-14, "Important Information Regarding the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency"
- The COVID-19: ForwardHealth News and Resources page of the ForwardHealth Portal (will include all Unwinding provider communications)
- The COVID-19 Unwinding Resources for Providers page of the Portal (provider resources for assisting members through Unwinding)