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Broker Alert

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COVID-19: AmeriHealth New Jersey covers consumer grade pulse oximeters at no cost share

AmeriHealth New Jersey is continuing to assess current conditions, health care for our members, and ways to help providers and clients through the pandemic. To help monitor members at home who have a COVID-19 diagnosis, are recovering from COVID-19 after being hospitalized, or who have respiratory symptoms while waiting for COVID-19 test results, AmeriHealth New Jersey will cover consumer grade pulse oximeters. Pulse oximeters are small, portable devices that monitor oxygen levels in the blood and pulse rate.

Monitoring these patients with a pulse oximeter where appropriate is important because the virus can slow down the production of oxygen in the blood at such a slow rate that the patient does not feel any symptoms. Due to this side effect, physicians in our network are starting to provide consumer grade pulse oximeters for outpatient management. In conjunction with physician oversight and support, these devices can prevent dangerous and undetected hypoxemia (low blood oxygen).

How we are covering consumer grade pulse oximeters for COVID-19 patients

We are covering consumer grade pulse oximeters in the home setting for patients with COVID-19 symptoms and who have a COVID-19 diagnosis, patients who are recovering from COVID-19 after being hospitalized, or who have respiratory symptoms while waiting for COVID-19 test results. The consumer grade pulse oximeter must be monitored and supported by a participating physician.

The device must also be ordered by a participating physician from an in-network durable medical equipment (DME) supplier to be delivered to the patient's home. Or the physician can provide a script to the patient with the DME supplier's number to call and have the device delivered to his or her home.

The cost of each device is approximately \$50 and will be covered at no cost share for members when using an in-network DME supplier. No referrals are needed. We will cover consumer grade pulse oximeters for COVID-19 patients until July 31, 2020.

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