

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Extended Coverage Announcement

April 2020



Dear Providers,

## **Meridian is taking additional steps to protect members' health amid the COVID-19 outbreak.**

As we learn more and address the novel coronavirus and its resulting illness, COVID-19, we want to update you on important coverage information around its testing, treatment and care.

Meridian will be extending coverage for COVID-19. We are taking this important step in partnership with other major insurers and with the support of the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

We intend to cover and waive Meridian members' cost sharing for all COVID-19 testing and screening services. To ensure that our members receive the care they need as quickly as possible, Meridian will not require prior authorization, prior certification, prior notification or step therapy protocols for these services.

This coverage extension follows the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) guidance that coronavirus tests will be fully covered without cost sharing for Medicare and Medicaid plans, a decision that Meridian fully supports for our members covered under these programs. The specific guidance includes:

- Waiving cost-sharing for COVID-19 tests
- Waiving cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatments in doctor's offices or emergency rooms and services delivered via telehealth
- Removing prior authorizations requirements
- Waiving prescription refill limits
- Relaxing restrictions on home or mail delivery of prescription drugs
- Expanding access to certain telehealth services

Meridian has been working in close partnership with state, local and federal authorities to serve and protect patients during the COVID-19 outbreak, including ensuring that our members and providers have the most up-to-date information to protect themselves and their families from the virus. We remain committed to protecting our communities during the outbreak.

To ensure you are keeping your environment safe from the coronavirus, please refer to the **CDC guidelines here**.

Sincerely,

Meridian