

SB510 and COVID-19 testing FAQ (January 2022)

SB510 requires health plans cover the costs for COVID-19 diagnostic and screening testing and healthcare services related to the testing for COVID-19 retroactively, beginning on March 4, 2020. This FAQ applies to SB10 and COVID-19 testing for members enrolled in Medi-Cal Managed Care (Medi-Cal) under Anthem Blue Cross (Anthem). Please review the Commercial and Medicare Advantage sites for details about these plans.

Commercial: [Provider News Home](#)

Medi-Cal: [Medi-Cal Provider News & Announcements - COVID-19](#)

Medicare: [Medicare Advantage News](#)

What testing does SB510 require health plans to cover?

Under SB510, health plans cover both diagnostic and screening testing with no out-of-pocket cost to the member.

Does SB510 impose specific requirements regarding types of tests covered (antigen or PCR)?

Antigen and PCR testing are both covered.

How will Anthem reimburse providers for COVID-19 testing under SB510?

Anthem will reimburse in-network and out-of-network providers in accordance with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Medi-Cal *Fee Schedule*. Out-of-network providers are prohibited from seeking reimbursement from members for COVID-19 diagnostic and screening testing services.

Is the cost of COVID-19 testing a delegated capitated service based on SB510?

The cost associated with COVID-19 testing under SB510 will remain with Anthem unless a new agreement with the delegated provider is reached.

Do SB510 requirements apply retroactively?

Recent law requires health plans to cover the cost of COVID-19 screening and diagnostic testing retroactively, beginning on March 4, 2020, with the Governor's declared State of Emergency related to COVID-19.

What is Anthem's stance on SB510?

Anthem has and will continue to advocate for affordable access to quality healthcare for our members and for all Californians. As such, we support the California Association of Health Plans' (CAHP) decision to file suit against the state of California over this recent law and the retroactive components. We do not challenge the application of the law from its effective date of January 1, 2022, and forward. However, the retroactive components of the law may result in an increase in healthcare premiums, and for these reasons, CAHP is asking the court to halt the retroactive components of this law. Anthem is a member of CAHP and supports this effort.

How can I get more information?

Please reach out to your Provider Experience representative if you have any questions or need more information.

<https://providers.anthem.com/ca>