

COVID-19 Testing at Community Pharmacies

****On Wednesday, April 8, 2020, HHS announced guidance authorizing pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests.** NCPA is currently seeking clarification on this authorization and will notify members promptly when more information is available.**

These are the levels of regulatory oversight for test kits.

1. **Tests which FDA granted Emergency Use Authorization:** [Click here to search EUA status.](#)
2. **Tests which have requested EUA:** Go to the FAQ link below and check the list under “Q: What laboratories are offering testing under the policy outlined in Section IV.A of the Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019?”
3. **Tests approved by state authority:** Go to the FAQ link below and check the list under “Q: What States or territories have chosen to authorize laboratories within that State or territory to develop and perform a test for COVID-19 under the policy outlined in Section IV.B of the Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019?”.
4. **Anibody (serology) tests:** Go to the FAQ link below and check the list under “Q: What serology tests are being offered under the policy outlined in Section IV.D of the Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019?”

→ [Click here for FDA’s testing FAQ including a list of state programs and companies preparing EUA.](#)

Testing collaboration scenarios

1. **NCPA is advocating for provider status** which would allow pharmacists to order COVID-19 tests from laboratories for Medicare patients. This limited to COVID-19 and influenza testing during the emergency declaration.
2. **Home testing kits: Note:** **As of 4/8/2020 No kits are approved for home use, including self-collection of samples to be sent to a clinical laboratory.**
3. **Point-of-care testing:** Pharmacy screens asymptomatic patients for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2.

Business feasibility questions

- Does the pharmacy have CLIA Certificate of Waiver? Here’s a [CLIA Certificate of Waiver How-To.](#)
- Is the pharmacy credentialed to bill medical plans for testing?
- Do local or state health officials require test result reporting?
- Does the pharmacy have access to enough personal protective equipment?
- What are the overhead costs for performing specimen collection for laboratory analysis?
- Does offering testing services exceed the pharmacy’s tolerance for risk of exposure to employees?

Updated: 04/08/2020