# Monkeypox Update

The federal government has declared monkeypox a public health emergency. As we wait for more guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we want to remind you of the following procedures, processes, and guidance.

## Testing and Treatment

Monkeypox testing and treatment, including vaccines, are covered under standard medical benefits. Providers can determine member eligibility and benefits information on Availity[1] by logging in to availity.com.

Currently, providers should use the following CPT codes:

**Testing**

- **87593**: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); orthopoxvirus (e.g., monkeypox virus, cowpox virus, vaccinia virus), amplified probe technique, each
- Please remember to send samples for testing of your Florida Blue patients to an in-network lab for services according to their contract benefits. Quest Diagnostics is our preferred lab provider. They provide the Monkeypox Virus DNA, Qualitative, Real-Time PCR Test (Test code 12084).

**Vaccines**

- **90611**: Smallpox and monkeypox vaccine, attenuated vaccinia virus, live, non-replicating, preservative free, 0.5 mL dosage, suspension, for subcutaneous use
- **90622**: Vaccinia (smallpox) virus vaccine, live, lyophilized, 0.3 mL dosage, for percutaneous use
- **Please note:** Products supplied by the government will not be eligible for reimbursement. Providers should only bill for commercially purchased products.

## Provider Support

The following guidance for the diagnosis and treatment of monkeypox is provided by Kelli L. Tice, M.D., Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Health Equity Officer at Florida Blue:

- Because of the atypical presentation of the virus and its similarities to sexually transmitted diseases, providers should have a low threshold for screening for monkeypox, particularly in areas of high transmission. Providers should also test anyone with typical skin lesions regardless of sexual orientation/history in areas with high numbers of cases.

- Lesions associated with monkeypox can be quite painful. To manage pain appropriately, you may need to consider use of the acute pain exception.

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- The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) provides information to help you diagnose and treat monkeypox, including these resources:
  - [cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/what-hcps-should-know.html](#)
  - [cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/pdf/mpx-clinician-what-to-do.pdf](#)

- In addition, the [Clinician Outreach and Communications Activity](#) (COCA) provides the latest news on disease outbreaks.

**Report Monkeypox Cases to the Florida Department of Health**
According to the [Florida Department of Health](#), if you [suspect a possible case of monkeypox](#), **immediately** contact your [county health department](#) or the 24/7 disease reporting hotline at 850-245-4401. Local county health departments can help providers obtain monkeypox virus-specific real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing, provide vaccine if indicated, and are responsible for contact tracing.

Health care providers should remain alert to stay up to date on information related to monkeypox:

- [Monkeypox symptoms](#), especially among individuals with relevant history
- [Transmission](#) and [incubation](#)
- [Specimen collection](#)
- Infection control procedures in the [home](#) and [hospital](#)
- [Clinical recognition,](#) and the **characteristic rash** associated with monkeypox.
- [Prophylaxis and possible treatments](#) for monkeypox.
- Monitoring of those [exposed to monkeypox](#).

If a Florida Blue member contacts us with questions about monkeypox or has symptoms, we are directing them to contact their primary care provider.