

THE BENEFIT

Housing Benefits Plan (HBP) is the medical plan provided to you by your housing authority. It is directed by housing authority Executive Directors from across Southeast and Southwest NAHRO for the benefit of housing authorities.

Please share this with all of your HBP employees, retirees, and COBRA members. Also share with the ED, HR, and Finance.

COVID-19 Testing, Treatment, and Vaccination

During the national public health emergency which has been extended to April 20, 2021, medically appropriate **COVID-19 testing** and **testing-related visits** will be covered when ordered by a physician for purposes of the diagnosis or treatment of an individual member. Tests must be FDA-authorized to be covered without cost-sharing. UnitedHealthcare does not cover testing for employment, education, public health or surveillance unless required by law.

Beginning Feb. 1, 2021, **COVID-19 treatment** will no longer have \$0 cost-share. For COVID-19 inpatient and outpatient treatment at in-network facilities, cost-sharing will be according to your benefit plan. [State variations](#) may apply. Coverage for out-of-network services will be determined by your benefit plan.

The FDA has issued emergency use authorization for 2 monoclonal antibody treatments. According to the CDC, **monoclonal antibody treatments** may be recommended by your provider if you test positive for COVID-19, and are at risk to get very sick or be admitted to the hospital. This treatment can help the body respond more effectively to the virus. Monoclonal antibody treatments will have \$0 cost-share with network providers in outpatient settings through Feb. 28, 2021.

During the public health emergency period, the **vaccine** has \$0 cost-share no matter where you get it. Whether at an in-network or out-of-network provider, you will not pay a copay, deductible or coinsurance. However, as with a flu shot, if you get the vaccine during a regular office visit, the visit will be covered according to your plan benefits.

Upcoming UHC Web Training

Tues. March 16, 10 am Eastern - *Making the Most of Your Working Day*

Previous webinar recordings can be found at <https://www.housingbp.com/links-2>



GlassesUSA.com or Eyeconic.com

These are websites that allow you to shop from home. You can browse many styles of glasses, including designer frames; try the glasses on virtually; and order your glasses with free shipping and returns. UHC vision participates in [GlassesUSA.com](#). VHS vision participates in [Eyeconic.com](#).

Employee Enrollment/Change Forms

When completing this form, it is essential for the housing authority to enter the **Effective Date of Change** at the top of page 1, in the Employer Section. If it conflicts with the information on file at Mercer's Client Services they will contact you. If your waiting period has changed since you last enrolled an employee, you will need to update your waiting period. Contact Mercer Enrollment and Billing to get this done at ClientServices_Billing3@mercer.com. The following email address is no longer monitored. Please remove it from your address book.

CBS.HBP.Billing&Eligibility@mmc.com

Please return the PI Contacts Form to Mercer

Mercer Billing sent each housing authority the PI Contacts information they had on file asking each HA to update the information. The PI Contacts form is for the contact at the housing authority whom should have access to billing and other housing authority information. The form should not include all employees as each employee has access to his/her own information. If you have not returned the form, please do so as soon as possible. Contact ClientServices_Billing3@mercer.com, if you have any questions.

HBP - www.housingbp.com Questions or comments - Email us at hbp@callhsa.com or call 1-800-288-7623, option 5



February 2021

Reminder Forms 1095-B & 1095-C

Information about employer reporting of the 1095s is in the January newsletter.

1095-Bs needed for personal income tax purposes

All Form 1095-Bs should be available on www.myuhc.com. Information on how to retrieve the forms is in January's newsletter. If members prefer a printed copy mailed to them, they can call the number on the back of their cards to request the form via regular mail.

Newsletters on Website

HBP's newsletters with attachments may be found on HBP's website under the Resources tab.

<https://www.housingbp.com/latest-news>

Timely Submission of Terminations Saves Money

When employee coverage ends please notify Mercer's Client Services as soon as possible to avoid having to pay for additional months. Employee terminations should be submitted 31 days prior to, but no later than 10 days following, the date of termination.

However, [Texas housing authorities](#), because of Texas Senate Bill 51, must submit the termination during the month the employee terminates to avoid additional payments. For example, if the termination is sent in the month after the employee terminates the housing authority must pay for that month also.

COVID-19 Resources

Click on the below link for the **most current COVID-19 information** from UHC.

<https://www.uhc.com/health-and-wellness/health-topics/covid-19/fac>

For your **up-to-date plan and benefit information**, visit www.myuhc.com/covid.

Know Before You Go

When scheduling a test or procedure inquire about the ancillary providers such as anesthesiologists and radiologists. If they are not in-network, find ones that are, even if you need to change to another in-network facility.