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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Public Health FOPH
Health and Accident Insurance Directorate

Fact sheet
COVID-19 (novel coronavirus disease) **Arrangements for cost coverage for Sars-CoV-2 testing and the associated medical care**

Date: 21 December 2020

Contents

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Health and Accident Insurance Directorate, leistungen-krankenversicherung@bag.admin.ch, www.bag.admin.ch
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

1 Background

Since 25 June 2020, the federal government has covered the costs of outpatient diagnostic molecular biological analyses (e.g. PCR) and immunological analyses for Sars-CoV-2 antibodies (serological test) for people meeting the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria. Since 2 November 2020, it has additionally covered the costs of the diagnostic immunological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 antigens and the non-automated single-patient rapid tests for direct detection of Sars-CoV-2[1] (Art. 26 para. 1 COVID-19 Ordinance 3).[2]

The federal government has also covered the costs, since 2 November 2020, of the Sars-CoV-2 rapid test if the sample is taken and the rapid test is conducted in a doctor's office, hospital, pharmacy or test centre (Art. 24 para. 1 let. b COVID-19 Ordinance 3). To this end, these facilities are specifically and temporarily exempted, while the COVID-19 Ordinance 3 is in force (until 31 December 2021), from the licensing requirement to carry out analyses for communicable diseases. All these facilities may now also carry out and bill for sampling for molecular biological analyses.

From 21 December 2020, Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests can also be conducted on individuals who do not meet the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020. Their use is governed by the provisions of Articles 24 to 24*d* of COVID-19 Ordinance 3. For tests conducted under these circumstances the fact sheet on the use of Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests that do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria of 18 December 2020 should be taken account of.[3]

The costs of analyses for Sars-CoV-2, including Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests, which do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria, are not covered by the federal government, or by the compulsory health insurance. They are to be charged to the party who requests them (e.g. employer).

These rules and arrangements governing the coverage of costs relate to analyses for Sars-CoV-2 carried out on an outpatient basis. Tests done on an inpatient basis are included in the relevant inpatient diagnosis-related groups (DRGs, Art. 49 of the Federal Act on Health insurance [HIA])[4], which means they do not result in additional costs for patients and insurers.

[1] Referred to in the text as Sars-CoV-2 rapid test
[2] SR 818.101.24
[3] See factsheet on the use of rapid tests that do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria of 18 December 2020, available (in German, French and Italian) at www.bag.admin.ch > Krankheiten > Infektionskrankheiten: Ausbrüche, Epidemien, Pandemien > Aktuelle Ausbrüche und Epidemien > Coronavirus > Informationen für Gesundheitsfachpersonen > Dokumente
[4] SR 832.10

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Health and Accident Insurance Directorate, leistungen-krankenversicherung@bag.admin.ch, www.bag.admin.ch
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2 Conditions for costs to be covered by the federal government

The coverage of the costs of analyses for Sars-CoV-2 by the federal government is still subject to the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria. These guidelines were amended on 18 December with effect from 21 December 2020.[5]

2.1 FOPH's testing strategy of 18 December 2020[6]

Testing for COVID-19 is recommended for[7]:

- In **outpatient settings**: **symptomatic people** who meet one of the clinical criteria[8]:
  - **molecular biological analysis** (e.g. PCR-based methods)
  - The use of Sars-CoV-2 **rapid tests** is possible if all three of the following criteria are met:
    - Symptoms appeared less than 4 days ago AND
    - The person is not at especially high risk9 AND
    - The person does not work in healthcare with direct patient contact

- In **asymptomatic people**:
  - Testing using **molecular biological analysis** (e.g. PCR) or antigen **rapid test**
    - In **outbreak investigations and controls**, in accordance with the FOPH's recommendations, ordered by a doctor.
    - For people in **quarantine**[10]
    - **After notification of a contact with a case of COVID-19 by the SwissCovid app**. A single test should be done from the 5th day following contact at the earliest.[11]
- Rapid antigen tests that are conducted on **asymptomatic people that do not meet the testing criteria** (e.g. as part of precautionary measures): positive rapid tests must be confirmed immediately by means of a molecular biological analysis (e.g. PCR).

The competent cantonal authority can also order analyses for Sars-CoV-2 antibodies (serological test). The indication algorithm for Sars-CoV-2 analysis illustrated in this fact sheet is not binding.[12]

[5] See the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020, available at www.bag.admin.ch > Diseases > Combating infectious diseases > Infectious diseases requiring notification > Declaration forms (German, French and Italian only)

[6] The FOPH testing strategy set out in this fact sheet is not binding. For the binding FOPH suspected case, testing and reporting criteria, see FOPH suspected case, testing and reporting strategy of 18 December 2020, which can be accessed at: www.bag.admin.ch > Diseases > Combating infectious diseases > Infectious diseases requiring notification > Declaration forms (German, French and Italian only).

[7] Currently only rapid antigen tests are available. Other rapid tests may be available on the market in future. These rapid tests must meet the minimum criteria set out under Annex 5*a* of COVID-19 Ordinance 3, and in particular be added to the FOPH's whitelist, available (in German, French and Italian) at www.bag.admin.ch > Medizin & Forschung > Medikamente und Medizinprodukte > Fachinformationen über die Covid-19-Testung

[8] There are different test indications for children under 12 (see Recommendation on what to do in the case of symptomatic children aged under 12 and test indications)

[9] The definition of people at especially high risk can be found at www.bag.admin.ch > Diseases > Infectious diseases: Outbreaks, Epidemics, Pandemics > Current outbreaks and epidemics > Coronavirus > Disease, symptoms, treatment > People at especially high risk

[10] A single test can be conducted from the 5th day after the (first) contact. A negative test does not mean the person can come out of quarantine early.

[11] The notification from the SwissCovid app indicates the date of the contact. A negative PCR test (molecular biological test) and a negative rapid antigen test in particular do not exclude infection.

[12] See the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020, available (in German, French and Italian) at www.bag.admin.ch > Diseases > Combating infectious diseases > Infectious diseases requiring notification > Declaration forms

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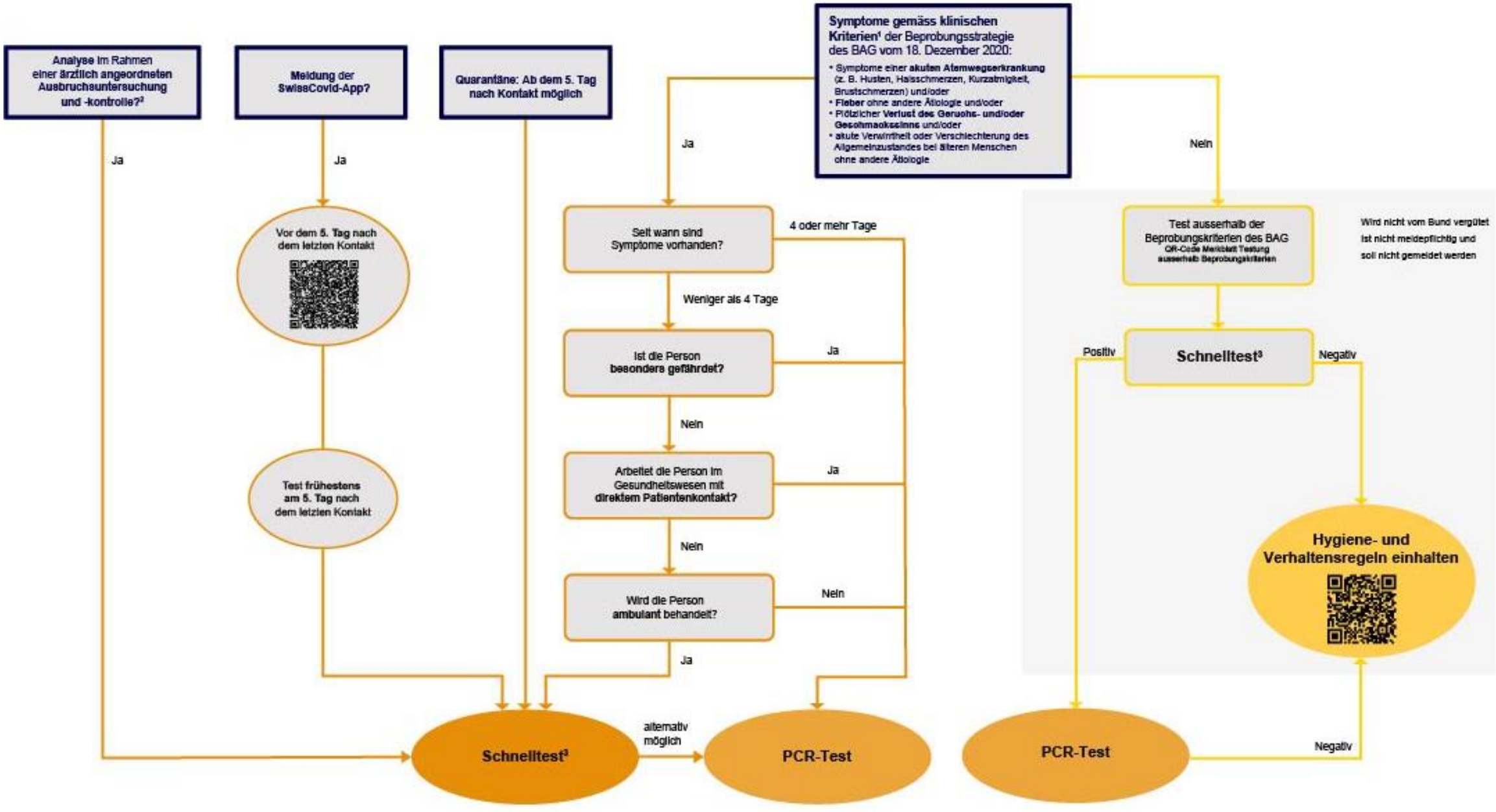

1 Andere, unspezifische oder seltenere Symptome sind: Muskelschmerzen, Kopfschmerzen, allgemeine Schwäche, Schnupfen, Magen-Darm-Symptome (z. B. Übelkeit, Erbrechen, Durchfall, Bauchschmerzen), Hautausschläge (z. B. Pseudo-Frostbeulen, urtikarielle, vesikuläre oder morbilliforme Exantheme)

2 Zur Ausbruchsuntersuchung und –kontrolle können Antigen-Schnelltests gemäss der Empfehlungen des BAG von Ärztinnen und Ärzten in allen Settings verwendet werden (z.B. auch bei besonders gefährdeten Personen oder bei Gesundheitsfachpersonen).

3 «Schnelltests» müssen die Mindestkriterien gemäss Anhang 5a der Covid-19-Verordnung 3 erfüllen und und auf der «Whitelist» des BAG www.bag.admin.ch/covid19-testung namentlich aufgeführt sein.

Fig. 1: FOPH indication algorithm for analyses for Sars-CoV-2 dated 18 December 2020 (English version will follow later)

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Federal Office of Public Health, Health and Accident Insurance Directorate, leistungen-krankenversicherung@bag.admin.ch,
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2.2 Service providers

The costs of molecular biological analyses for Sars-CoV-2, immunological analyses for Sars-CoV-2 antigens, Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests and immunological analyses for Sars-CoV-2 antibodies done on an outpatient basis and the associated medical care (as per Annex 6 to COVID-19 Ordinance 3) are covered by the federal government for people meeting the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020. The corresponding care must be delivered by the following service providers as specified in the HIA:

- Doctors
- Pharmacists
- Hospitals
- Laboratories under the terms of Art. 54 para. 3 of the Health Insurance Ordinance[13] (HIO) and hospital laboratories under the terms of Art. 54 para. 2 HIO. Laboratories must be licensed as per Art. 16 para. 1 of the Epidemics Act (EpidA)[14].
- Also in test centres (including drive-ins) run by or on behalf of the canton. In the case of test centres, the federal government will only cover the costs if these facilities are run by the canton or on its behalf. With an eye to quality assurance, these test centres and drive-ins should at the minimum meet cantonal requirements. Services provided by test centres and drive-ins organised on a private basis without a cantonal remit will therefore not be covered by the federal government.

Furthermore, since 2 November 2020, COVID-19 Ordinance 3 has allowed Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests to be conducted outside licensed laboratories in medical practices, pharmacies, laboratories that are not licensed under Art. 16 of the Epidemics Act, hospitals and test centres run by the canton or on its behalf (Art. 24 para. 1 let. b COVID-19 Ordinance 3; see Section 2.4 for further information). This regulation applies only while the COVID-19 Ordinance 3 is in force.

2.3 Molecular biological analyses for Sars-CoV-2, immunological analyses for Sars-CoV-2 antigens and for Sars-CoV-2 antibodies in licensed laboratories

Molecular biological analyses for Sars-CoV-2 and immunological analyses for Sars-CoV-2 antigens and Sars-CoV-2 antibodies can be conducted in licensed laboratories subject to the conditions that

- the reliability and the expected performance of the testing systems used are assured, and
- the other operational and organisational requirements to assure the quality of the results are complied with.

2.4 Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests

From 21 December 2020, the use of antigen rapid tests, but also other, non-automated single-patient rapid tests for direct detection of Sars-CoV-2, known as 'Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests', is in principle permitted.

Only rapid tests that meet the minimum criteria set out under Annex 5*a* of COVID-19 Ordinance 3 and that feature on the FOPH whitelist[15] can be used. Independent validation of the test systems is understood to mean that the laboratory has no conflict of interest in carrying out the validation.

[13] SR 832.102
[14] SR 818.101
[15] See the FOPH's whitelist, available (in German, French and Italian) at www.bag.admin.ch > Medizin & Forschung > Medikamente und Medizinprodukte > Fachinformationen über die Covid-19-Testung

The legal requirements regarding these Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests with the required test conditions can be found in Articles 24, 24*a* and 24*c* of COVID-19 Ordinance 3.

2.4.1 Use of non- molecular biological Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests

Under the terms of Art. 24 para 1 of the COVID-19 Ordinance 3, sampling and the execution of Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests is permitted, not only in laboratories with the corresponding licence, but also in medical practices, pharmacies, hospitals and test centres run by the canton or on its behalf.

These facilities are temporarily exempted from the licensing requirement under Art. 16 of the Epidemics Act while the COVID-19 Ordinance 3 is in force, subject to compliance with all requirements set out under Art. 24 para. 4 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3:

Basic requirements:

- Appropriate safety and precautionary measures are in place and complied with to protect humans, animals, the environment and biological diversity.

Operational and organisational requirements to assure the quality of results:

- The personnel conducting the tests must have specific training and follow the instructions of the test manufacturer.
- The result of the test must be interpreted under the supervision of people with the necessary specific expertise. External experts may also be brought in for this purpose.
- Facilities conducting the tests must keep documentation to demonstrate the traceability and quality of the analysis systems. This documentation must be retained.
- The facilities must be authorised by the canton to conduct such tests.[16]

The cantons are responsible for controls of the respect and the enforcement of these requirements in facilities.

Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests may also be conducted outside of these facilities, provided a doctor or pharmacist assumes responsibility for compliance with the requirements of Articles 24-24*b* of COVID-19 Ordinance 3.

2.4.2 Use of Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests using molecular biological methods

Rapid Sars-CoV-2 tests based on molecular biological detection methods may only be conducted in licensed laboratories or outside these laboratories if the laboratory manager assumes responsibility for conducting the tests.

2.4.3 Persons who may undergo Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests

Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests may be conducted on people who meet the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020 (Art. 24*b* para. 1 COVID-19 Ordinance 3).

Since 21 December 2020, Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests can also be conducted on people who do not meet the suspected case, testing and reporting criteria, if all the following criteria are met:

- Requirements of the facility in accordance with Art. 24 para. 4 and Art. 24*a* COVID-19 Ordinance 3
- The facility or person conducting the Sars-CoV-2 rapid test:
    - allows sampling for molecular biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 as a confirmatory diagnostic test,

[16] For further information, see Section 5.3 Checking entitlement to submit invoices

- informs the cantonal authority responsible for contact tracing if no confirmatory diagnostic test is carried out.

For the use of Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests on people who do not meet the testing criteria, note must be taken of the 'Fact sheet on the use of rapid tests that do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria of 18 December 2020.'[17]

3 Costs covered by the federal government

3.1 Basic principles

The federal government covers the costs of analysis for Sars-CoV-2 and the costs of the associated medical care if the requirements of the FOPH's testing strategy of 18 December 2020 are met. If these requirements are not met, the costs of the analyses for Sars-CoV-2 and the associated medical care are borne by the requesting person or institution.

Furthermore, in accordance with the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020, the federal government will assume the costs of a molecular biological confirmation analysis (e.g. PCR) in the event of a positive Sars-CoV-2 rapid test that was conducted outside of the FOPH testing strategy.

The costs of mandatory reporting to the authorities as per Art. 12 paras 1 and 2 of the Epidemics Act are included in the flat rates covered by the federal government. The detailed reporting criteria can be found in the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020. According to Art. 26*a* para. 7 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3, the federal government can reclaim the remuneration from the service provider if the reporting obligations according to Art. 12 of the Epidemics Act are violated by the service provider.

The amounts covered by the federal government are maximum amounts, which means that if the actual costs are lower, they must be billed to the federal government accordingly. The amendment of the VAT Ordinance[18] (Art. 35 para. 2 let. o VATO) means that pharmacists and test centre employees as per Art. 26 para. 2 let. b of the COVID-19 Ordinance 3 are deemed members of the health and care occupations for the conduct of analyses for Sars-CoV-2 under Art. 26 para. 1 of the COVID-19 Ordinance 3, irrespective of whether the costs are covered by the federal government. The analyses and associated medical care performed by the aforementioned service providers are thus exempt from VAT. This applies to test centres with retrospective effect from 25 June 2020, and to pharmacists with retrospective effect from 2 November 2020.

If the same person undergoes both molecular biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 and immunological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 antigens, a Sars-CoV-2 rapid test or an analysis for Sars-CoV-2 antibodies on the same day, the federal government will cover the following cost components only once:

- a flat rate payment covering the sampling and the communication of the test results to the person tested and the authority responsible, as well as
- the cost components for order processing, overhead costs and sampling materials

Service providers may **not charge** persons tested or the insurers **any further costs** (such as night, emergency and public holiday surcharges) for analyses for Sars-CoV-2 and associated medical care.

If on the same order additional analyses are requested for the person tested, the laboratory may not charge to compulsory health insurance any order charge (item no. 4700.00 on the List of Analyses) or

[17] See factsheet on the use of rapid tests that do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria of 18 December 2020, available (in German, French and Italian) at www.bag.admin.ch > Krankheiten > Infektionskrankheiten: Ausbrüche, Epidemien, Pandemien > Aktuelle Ausbrüche und Epidemien > Coronavirus > Informationen für Gesundheitsfachpersonen > Dokumente

[18] SR 641.201

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presence charge (item no. 4707.00 on the List of Analyses) in addition to the order processing, overhead costs and sampling materials covered by the federal government.

3.2 Sampling

Sampling involves the three components: taking the sample, communicating the test results, and a thorough medical consultation with the patient if necessary:

- Sampling (tariff number 01.01.1000, CHF 25) encompasses the patient's consultation, the swab and/or blood sampling (or collection of another validated sample) and the protective equipment.

  All service providers receive identical amounts for the taking of samples. The indication is based on the notification of the SwissCovid app or an internet-based COVID-19 infection risk evaluation tool (CoronavirusCheck, etc.) or according to the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020

- Communication of the test results to the tested person and the compulsory notification in accordance with Art. 12 para. 1 EpA to the authorities (tariff number 01.01.1100, CHF 2.50) also involves requesting the activation code that is generated by the Proximity Tracing System for coronavirus Sars-CoV-2 (PT System) if an infection is detected. This item can be charged once per patient per day by the notifying service provider.

- Only if a thorough doctor-patient consultation (tariff number 01.01.1050) including a possible clinical examination takes place for the indication of the analysis for Sars-CoV-2 in connection with an analysis for Sars-CoV-2, can the doctor charge the maximum amount of CHF 22.50 stipulated for this service.
  The thorough doctor-patient consultation is a real medical consultation with contact taking place between the doctor and patient. There is a discussion and if necessary, a brief clinical examination may be performed for the indication of the analysis for Sars-CoV-2. A clinical examination as part of the doctor-patient consultation when the sample is taken for an analysis for Sars-CoV-2 is not a requirement. The clinical examination may be limited to taking the patient's temperature or measuring their oxygen saturation (SpO_2), for example.
  A thorough doctor-patient consultation is mainly carried out for patients with risk factors, or unclear or severe symptoms.

The federal government will continue to cover the costs of sampling if it is done in a laboratory, a pharmacy or test centre with no indication by a doctor. This regulation still only applies to molecular biological analyses for Sars-CoV-2, analyses for Sars-CoV-2 antigens and the rapid Sars-CoV-2 tests.

For the analyses for antibodies against Sars-CoV-2, an order by the competent cantonal authority is required for the federal government to assume the costs.

The federal government will also cover the costs of the analysis and associated care if the services are provided by different parties, in other words if a doctor provides the thorough patient consultation and communicates the results to the person tested and the authorities, while the sampling is done by the laboratory, hospital, pharmacy or test centre.

The equipment required for the swab are made available by the laboratory and covered under order processing, except in the case of rapid tests for Sars-CoV-2, where the sterilised nasopharyngeal sampling swabs are provided in the test kit.

The service provider as specified in the HIA (doctors, laboratories, pharmacists and hospitals) and the test centre run by or on behalf of the canton does the sampling and is also responsible for completion of the laboratory order with the patient's personal details (including health insurance details and insurance number), clinical information and the indication for the analysis. Responsibility for assessing compliance with the requirements for the coverage of test costs rests with the service provider.

3.3 Performance of the analysis, including order processing

The maximum amounts covered by the federal government for analyses for Sars-CoV-2 and associated care are described in detail in Annex 6 of Covid-19 Ordinance 3 and illustrated in Figure 2.

Only laboratories under Art. 54 para. 3 HIO can charge CHF 24 for order processing, overhead costs and sampling material. These laboratories are contracted to perform the analyses by an external/third party service provider. The laboratories under Art. 54 para. 3 HIO include private laboratories and hospital laboratories that meet the laboratory management conditions set out under Art. 54 para. 3 HIO. If a laboratory under Art. 54 para. 3 HIO conducts an analysis for Sars-CoV-2 without an order from a service provider in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2 COVID-19 Ordinance 3 (for private laboratories, this is only possible while the COVID-19 Ordinance 3 is in force), only CHF 5 may be charged for order processing as per Annex 6 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3 (tariff number 01.01.1350).

3.3.1 Molecular biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2

In accordance with Annex 6 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3, the federal government will pay up to the following maximum amounts for the **molecular biological analysis** for Sars-CoV-2:

- If the analysis is conducted by a laboratory in accordance with Art. 54 para. 3 HIO[19] on behalf of another service provider in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2 COVID-19 Ordinance 3: up to a maximum of CHF 106. The sum is made up as follows: CHF 82 for the analysis and CHF 24 for order processing, overhead costs and sampling materials.
- If the analysis is conducted by a laboratory in accordance with Art. 54 para. 3 HIO after sampling in the same laboratory without an order from a service provider in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2 COVID-19 Ordinance 3 (own use): up to a maximum of CHF 87. This sum is made up as follows: CHF 82 for the analysis and CHF 5 for order processing, overhead costs and sampling materials.
- If the analysis is conducted by a hospital laboratory in accordance with Art. 54 para. 2 HIO for the hospital's own use: up to a maximum of CHF 87. This sum is made up as follows: CHF 82 for the analysis and CHF 5 for order processing, overhead costs and sampling materials.

The temporary additional amount for rapid molecular biological analyses is no longer covered by the federal government from 21 December 2020, as sufficient capacity is available again on high-throughput equipment.

3.3.2 Immunological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 antigens and rapid tests for Sars-CoV-2

In accordance with Annex 6 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3 the federal government will pay up to the following maximum amounts for **immunological analyses for Sars-CoV-2 antigens and rapid tests for Sars-CoV-2:**

- If the analysis is conducted by a laboratory in accordance with Art. 54 para. 3 HIO on behalf of another service provider in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2 COVID-19 Ordinance 3: up to a maximum of CHF 49. This sum is made up as follows: CHF 25 for the analysis and CHF 24 for order processing, overhead costs and sampling materials.
- If the analysis is conducted by a laboratory in accordance with Art. 54 para. 3 HIO after sampling in the same laboratory (own use) in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2 COVID-19 Ordinance 3: up to a maximum of CHF 30. This sum is made up as follows: CHF 25 for the analysis and CHF 5 for order processing, overhead costs and sampling materials.
- If the analysis is conducted by another service provider in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2 (e.g. in a medical practice, hospital, pharmacy or test centre): up to a maximum of CHF 30. This sum is made up as follows: CHF 25 for the analysis and CHF 5 for order processing, overhead costs

[19] SR 832.102

and sampling materials. This regulation only applies to rapid Sars-CoV-2 tests, and not for other analyses for Sars-CoV-2.

3.3.3 Immunological analysis for antibodies against Sars-CoV-2

In accordance with Annex 6 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3 the federal government will pay up to the following maximum amounts for immunological analyses for antibodies against Sars-CoV-2:

- If the analysis is conducted by a laboratory in accordance with Art. 54 para. 3 HIO by order of the cantonal medical officer: up to a maximum of CHF 49. This sum is made up as follows: CHF 25 for the analysis and CHF 24 for order processing, overhead costs and sampling materials.

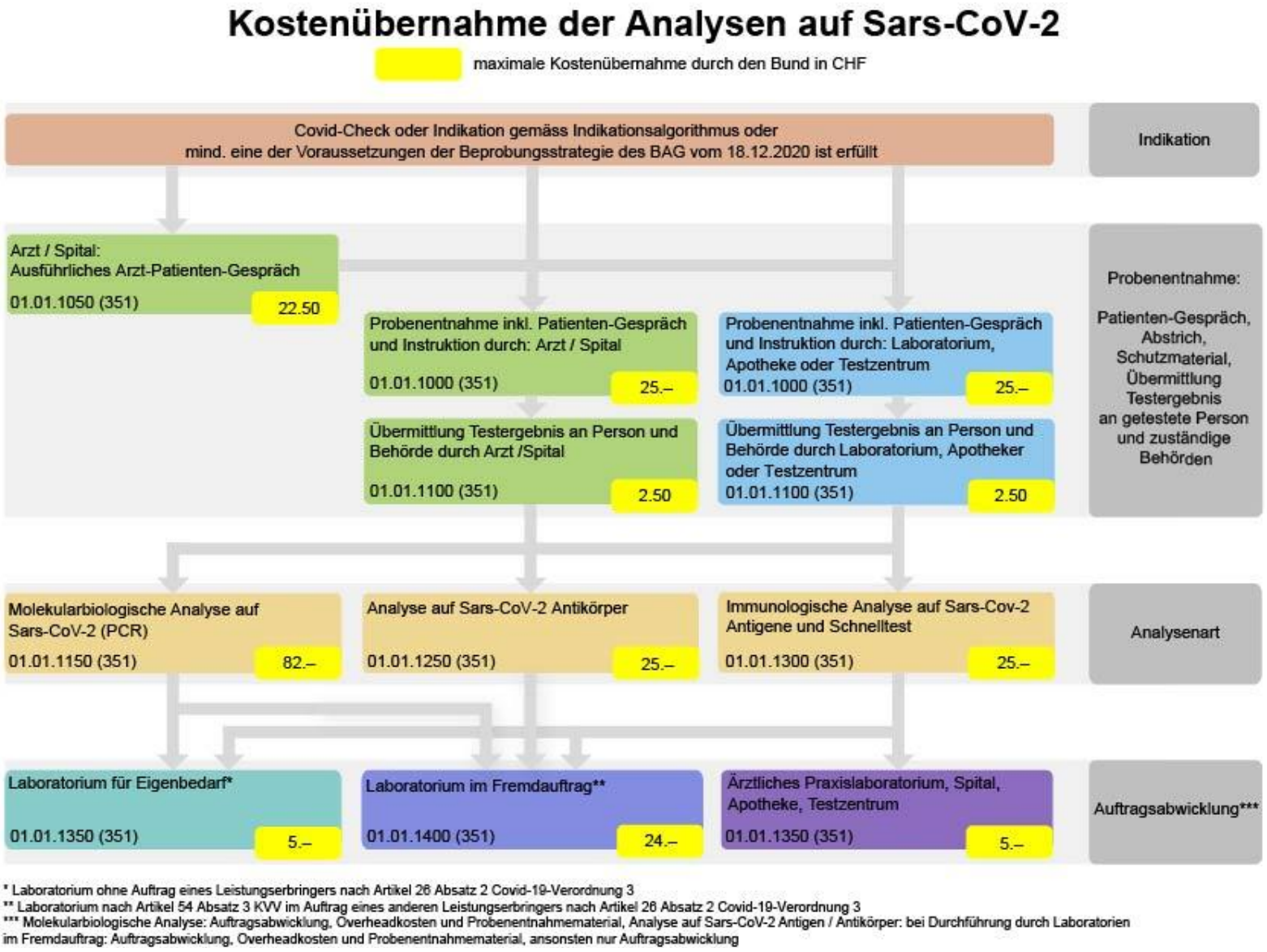

Fig. 2: Cost coverage of analyses for Sars-CoV-2 (English version will follow later)

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Health and Accident Insurance Directorate, leistungen-krankenversicherung@bag.admin.ch,
www.bag.admin.ch
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4 Costs of analyses for Sars-CoV-2 that are not borne by the federal government

The **costs of analyses** (and associated care) that **do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria**, are **not covered by the federal government**, but must be borne instead by the requesting person/institution. The costs are not reimbursed by the compulsory health insurance under the HIA either, but must instead be billed to the requesting person or ordering party (e.g. employer) with the note 'Analysis for Sars-CoV-2 where testing criteria not met'. When service providers in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2 of the COVID-19 Ordinance 3 invoice for example the requesting person or employer (self-payer), the self-payer tariff numbers defined by the tariff partners should be used. The maximum amount for self-payers may differ from the amounts defined by the federal government.[20] The requesting persons or ordering parties must be made aware that these costs will not be covered by the federal government or health insurers.

Following the amendment of the COVID-19 Ordinance 3 with effect from 21 December 2020, the use of Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests that do not meet the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020 is permitted, so that other groups of people (e.g. close contacts of those at especially high risk, people attending events) can get tested. The result of a rapid test is a snapshot and is no substitute for compliance with the rules on hygiene and social distancing and precautionary measures. For the conduct of rapid tests for Sars-CoV-2 that do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria, the same conditions apply for facilities as for use within the scope of the FOPH's testing criteria.[21] However, the responsible facility must allow sampling for molecular biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 as a confirmatory diagnostic test of a positive result, or refer the patient to existing options. Instead of the FOPH's testing criteria, note should be taken of the fact sheet on the use of rapid tests that do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria.[22]

Analyses that are conducted on people who do not meet the FOPH's suspected case, sampling and reporting criteria do not have to be reported. In the event of a positive rapid test for Sars-CoV-2, a sample for molecular biological analysis (e.g. PCR) for confirmation must be taken immediately at the place of testing. The molecular biological confirmation analysis in the event of a previous positive rapid test for Sars-CoV-2 that does not meet the FOPH's testing criteria is part of the FOPH's suspected case, testing and reporting criteria of 18 December 2020 and the costs of the confirmatory analysis will therefore be assumed by the federal government. If the result of the confirmation analysis is positive, this must be reported.

5 Technical procedure

5.1 Invoicing

The service providers submit the invoice, specifying the ZSR number/GLN number, to the insurer responsible (health insurer, Military Insurance), or to the HIA Collective Institution. Under Art. 26*a* para. 1 of the COVID-19 Ordinance 3, the invoice must be submitted to the insurer no later than six months after provision of the services. The canton is responsible for applying for the ZSR numbers of the test centres operated by the canton or on its behalf and approved by the canton to SASIS AG and for the use of these ZSR numbers in invoicing the responsible insurer.[23] The tariff headings, for sampling on the one hand and laboratory analysis on the other, must be itemised on the invoice with the

[20] See pandemic tariff of 21 December 2020, accessible (in German, French and Italian) at: www.bag.admin.ch > Diseases > Infectious diseases: outbreaks, epidemics, pandemics > Current outbreaks and epidemics > New coronavirus > Health insurance arrangements

[21] For further information, see Section 2.4 Sars-CoV-2 rapid tests

[22] See factsheet on the use of rapid tests that do not meet the FOPH's testing criteria of 18 December 2020, available (in German, French and Italian) at www.bag.admin.ch > Krankheiten > Infektionskrankheiten: Ausbrüche, Epidemien, Pandemien > Aktuelle Ausbrüche und Epidemien > Coronavirus > Informationen für Gesundheitsfachpersonen > Dokumente

[23] For further information, see section. 5.3 Checking entitlement to submit invoices

corresponding tariff numbers and invoiced separately by the respective service provider, i.e. the invoice does not include services outside tariff code 351. The insurer responsible is the provider of coverage against illness for the person tested. For those not insured in Switzerland, the Collective Institution under Art. 18 of the HIA is responsible.

Service provider invoices are to be submitted in a standardised form, as specified in Art. 26*a* para. 1 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3, including the administrative and medical information specified in Art. 59 HIO, to the insurer responsible, or to the HIA Collective Institution[24], under the *tiers payant* system, in accordance with Art. 42 para 2 HIA. The person tested is not liable for **any copayment** for services listed in Annex 6 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3. The doctor or party ordering an analysis is required to report the policyholder and insurer number to the laboratories to ensure electronic billing.

Invoices are generally to be submitted electronically (applicable standard: 'General Invoice Request 'of the Data Exchange Forum).

For additional evaluations or medical care which are not required for Sars-CoV-2 sampling and which are performed during or as a result of the coronavirus consultation (e.g. treatment for Sars-CoV-2 infection), the act applicable in each case (HIA, AIA, MIA and InvIA) is to be applied. Service providers must inform the person concerned of any costs arising which are not covered by the federal government's flat rate coverage and which thus give rise to additional costs (e.g. a copayment) for the patient. Such medical care is to be invoiced separately from the analysis by the service provider in accordance with the applicable provisions in the relevant federal act.

While COVID-19 Ordinance 3 is in force (until 31 December 2021), tariff no. 3186.00 of Annex 3 to the Health Insurance Benefits Ordinance[25] must not be applied for the analysis for Sars-CoV-2 (Art. 26*a* para. 2 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3).

[24] Tests ordered by the DDPS are billed directly to the AFS
[25] SR 832.112.31

5.2 Tariffs and tariff numbers to be used by service providers (valid from 21 December 2020)[26]

The following tariffs and tariff numbers may only be used for tests carried out in accordance with the FOPH testing strategy. For the use of analyses outside of the FOPH testing strategy, the self-payer tariff numbers must be used and the invoices must contain a note 'Analysis for Sars-CoV-2 where testing criteria are not met'. In this case, the maximum amount may differ from the amounts defined by the federal government[27].

Subsection	Code Number	Service	Service provider	Cannot be cumulated with which numbers?	Can be cumulated with which numbers?	Limitation	Value [CHF]
Sampling	351 01.01.1000	Flat fee covering sampling, swab, smear and / or blood collection (or collection of another validated sample), protective material, patient consultation	Medical practice Hospital Laboratories Pharmacy Test centre			1/patient/day	25
Doctor	351 01.01.1050	Medical flat fee for thorough patient consultation with doctor	Medical practice [28] Hospital			1/patient/day	22.5
Communication	351 01.01.1100	Communicating test result to person tested and clinical notification to authorities	Medical practice Hospital Laboratories Pharmacy Test centre			1/patient/day	2.5

[26] For the invoicing of analyses for Sars-CoV-2 carried out before 21 December 2020, the previous factsheets are to be referred to (available at www.bag.admin.ch > Diseases > Infectious diseases: Outbreaks, Epidemics, Pandemics > Current outbreaks and epidemics > Coronavirus > Health insurance arrangements)

[27] See pandemic tariff of 21 December 2020, available (in German, French and Italian) at www.bag.admin.ch > Diseases > Infectious diseases: Outbreaks, Epidemics, Pandemics > Current outbreaks and epidemics > Coronavirus > Health insurance arrangements

[28] If a doctor conducts a thorough medical consultation in a test centre, the billing goes via the doctor's ZSR number.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Health and Accident Insurance Directorate, leistungen-krankenversicherung@bag.admin.ch,
www.bag.admin.ch
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

Analysis	351 01.01.1150	Molecular biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2	Hospital Laboratories			1/patient/day	82
Analysis	351 01.01.1250	Immunological analysis for antibodies against Sars-CoV-2	Hospital Laboratories			1/patient/day	25
Analysis	351 01.01.1300	Immunological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 antigens and rapid test for direct detection of Sars-CoV-2 (e.g. rapid antigen test)	Medical practice Hospital Laboratories Pharmacy Test centre			1/patient/day	25
Order processing	351 01.01.1350	Flat fee in the event of own use for processing, overhead costs and sampling material	Medical practice Hospital Laboratories Pharmacy Test centre	Cannot be cumulated with 01.01.1400 flat fee in the event of outside order for order processing, overhead costs and sampling material	Only billable with an analysis	1/patient/day	5
Order processing	351 01.01.1400	Flat fee in the event of outside order for order processing, overhead costs and sampling material	Laboratories	Cannot be cumulated with 01.01.1350 flat fee in the event of own use for order processing, overhead costs and sampling material	Only billable with an analysis	1/patient/day	24

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Health and Accident Insurance Directorate, leistungen-krankenversicherung@bag.admin.ch,
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5.3 Checking entitlement to submit invoices

The following service providers as specified in the HIA are in principle authorised to conduct and bill analyses for Sars-CoV-2 and do not need to be individually licensed by the cantons or registered with SASIS AG:

- Doctors[29]
- Pharmacists
- Hospitals
- Laboratories in accordance with Art. 54 para. 3 HIO and hospital laboratories in accordance with Art. 54 para. 2 HIO that are licensed in accordance with Art. 16 para. 2 EpA.

For other service providers and test centres (operated by or on behalf of the canton) that conduct analyses for Sars-CoV-2 outside of the closed systems, the cantons must request a new **ZSR number/GLN number**, even if the service provider already has an established ZSR number (e.g. Spitex, care homes). The cantons must apply for the new ZSR number for the authorised facilities from SASIS AG[30] directly.

With effect from 23 December 2020, the pandemic tariff 351 is only authorised for the partner type top groups doctor, hospital, laboratory and pharmacy. For other service providers and test centres (operated by or on behalf of the canton), insurers must verify whether 'other invoicing parties' are authorised to submit invoices. Insurers can decide which type of checks they wish to perform: they may use fully automated checks (authorisation request on entering into the contract V1), partially automated (e.g. filing of the authorised ZSR number as a rule) or manual checks (via deviation). SASIS also lists the authorised test centres on its website.

[29] In accordance with Art. 36 HIA, doctors who hold the federal diploma and specialised training recognised by the Federal Council are licensed. Dentists are only treated the same as doctors for care under Art. 31 HIA (dental care). They cannot perform analyses for Sars-CoV-2 and associated medical care that are covered by the federal government.

[30] If you have any questions or require further information, please contact: zsr-b2b@sasis.ch

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Health and Accident Insurance Directorate, leistungen-krankenversicherung@bag.admin.ch, www.bag.admin.ch
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

5.4 Invoice control

Insurers and the HIA Collective Institution check invoices for the following points:

- Entitlement of service provider to submit invoices (based on the ZSR/GLN number, cf. Art. 26 para. 2 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3)
- Compliance with flat rates (amounts specified in Annex 6 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3)
- whether the same analysis has been charged for more than once per day per person
- no number other than the stipulated flat rate are included in the invoice

If the legal requirements for invoicing are not fulfilled, the invoice is to be returned to the service provider and not settled. The burden of proof lies with the service provider. The service provider must then rectify and resubmit the invoice.

5.5 Reporting to the FOPH

Insurers or the HIA Collective Institution report quarterly to the FOPH the number of analyses for which they have reimbursed service providers in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2, and the amount covered, at the beginning of January, April, July and October (cf. Art. 26*a* para. 5 COVID-19 Ordinance 3). The external auditors of the insurers and of the Collective Institution will check these notifications annually. They will also check whether insurers and the Collective Institution have the appropriate controls in place to check whether service providers have charged the services correctly in line with the stipulated requirements, and will report back to the FOPH.

The FOPH may request additional information from insurers and the HIA Collective Institution on amounts reimbursed per service provider in accordance with Art. 26 para. 2. The aim is to be able to control whether service providers have fulfilled their obligations, in particular reporting obligations in accordance with Art. 12 EpA.

6 Entry into force

This fact sheet supersedes the fact sheet “Novel COVID-19 disease (coronavirus): Arrangements for cost coverage for Sars-CoV-2 testing and the associated services” dated 2 November 2020 and is valid from 21 December 2020.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Health and Accident Insurance Directorate, leistungen-krankenversicherung@bag.admin.ch, www.bag.admin.ch
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.