**FAX BLAST**

**3/16/18**

**ATTENTION ALL PROVIDERS**

**Routine Molecular Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) panel testing**

Driscoll Health Plan has detected a dramatic increase in routine Molecular Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) panel testing in the initial outpatient evaluation of upper respiratory and gastrointestinal complaints.   The medical necessity and utility for this type of routine testing, particularly panel testing, over history, examination, and other testing is not supported in practice, evidence based literature, or in best practices.

**Effective immediately** outpatient Molecular Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for certain Respiratory and Gastrointestinal infectious agents will require Prior Authorization.   In the interim, these tests will undergo 100% pre-payment review for medical necessity.  This requirement applies to all outpatient providers including urgent care centers and laboratories.

The following CPT codes are included:

* 87633 – Respiratory Virus 12-25 Targets
* 87486 – Chlamydia DNA Amp Probe
* 87581 – Mycoplasma Pneumonia DNA Amp Probe
* 87507 – IADNA – DNA/RNA Probe TQ 12-25
* 87634  - RSV Testing, Qualitative Real Time for children > 2 months of age

The following PCR tests do not require prior authorization:

* 87651, 87798 – Group A Streptococcal Throat Testing
* 87502, 87503 (x3) – Influenza A/B

**Providers may contact the DHP Provider Service Line at**

**1-877-324-3627 (for Nueces Service Area) or**

**1-855-425-3247 (for Hidalgo Service Area)**

**for assistance on any provider issues.**