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**SJVIA Board Meeting: Consultant's Report – COVID-19 CARES ACT – Health Coverage for Testing and Preventive Services**

**Ratify SJVIA Staff Action Taken to Cover COVID-19 Testing and Preventive Services at Zero Cost to Members**

With regards to the coverage of COVID-19 testing and preventive services, the CARES Act makes the following changes applicable to both fully insured and self-funded group health plans:

It expands the types of testing covered with no cost sharing as set forth in the Families First Act to include invitro diagnostic testing (i.e. a blood test or swab) for which the testing developer has requested, or intends to request, an emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or that a state has authorized.

It requires that the group health plan or insurer reimburse the provider for either the negotiated cost of the testing or, if there is no negotiated price, for the cash price of the diagnostic testing as reflected on the provider's website. The CARES Act requires providers to publicize the price of the testing on a publicly available website, with a fine of \$300/day for those that fail to comply.

It provides that if preventive measures to prevent or mitigate COVID-19 become available, then group health plans and insurers must also cover such preventive measures with no cost-sharing.

SJVIA Staff informed Anthem that the Anthem SJVIA medical plans will comply with the CARES Act and to make the compliance retrospective to March 18, 2020, through May 31, 2020. The SJVIA Staff requests the SJVIA Board allow the SJVIA Staff to use its discretion to opt for continuation of the zero cost policy beyond May 31, but no longer than July 31, 2020, dependent upon the COVID-19 testing conditions that exist later in May.