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February 10, 2023

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

On behalf of the Medicare Rights Center, thank you for your remarkable efforts to combat COVID-19. As this work evolves, we urge you to continue to center the needs of people with Medicare, including by exploring ways to maintain coverage of at-home diagnostic tests.

Medicare Rights is a national, nonprofit organization that works to ensure access to affordable and equitable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through counseling and advocacy, educational programs, and public policy initiatives. Each year, we provide services and resources to over three million people with Medicare, family caregivers, and professionals.

Throughout the pandemic, people with Medicare have been at high risk of infection, serious illness, and even death from COVID-19. No-cost, at-home diagnostic testing has been a critical tool, helping beneficiaries protect their own and public health. We understand this coverage is set to expire with the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). We respectfully ask CMS to consider extending it. Doing so would best ensure older adults and people with disabilities remain equipped to monitor their health and empowered to act accordingly, including by seeking treatment at the first signs of illness.

Thank you for your leadership, time, and consideration. We applaud your efforts to ensure all people with Medicare have accessible and affordable health care and prescription drug coverage, during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. For additional information, please contact Lindsey Copeland, Federal Policy Director at LCopeland@medicarerights.org or 202-637-0961.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Riccardi".

Fred Riccardi
President
Medicare Rights Center