

February 2022 COVID-19 Update

GIB Item 5

Renee Walk, Lead Policy Advisor

Office of Strategic Health Policy



Informational Item Only

No Board action is required.

Over the Counter Test Coverage

Announced by Biden Administration January 10, 2022

Effective January 15, 2022

Insurers must pay for up to 8 OTC tests/person/month

In or out of network

Plans may steer toward in-network providers through payment

Getting Tests Through the Board's Plan

Navitus will process all covered OTC tests

\$0 out of pocket at in-network pharmacy

Out-of-network limited to \$12/test

New on 2/3: Medicare working on coverage

Omicron Variant & Vaccination

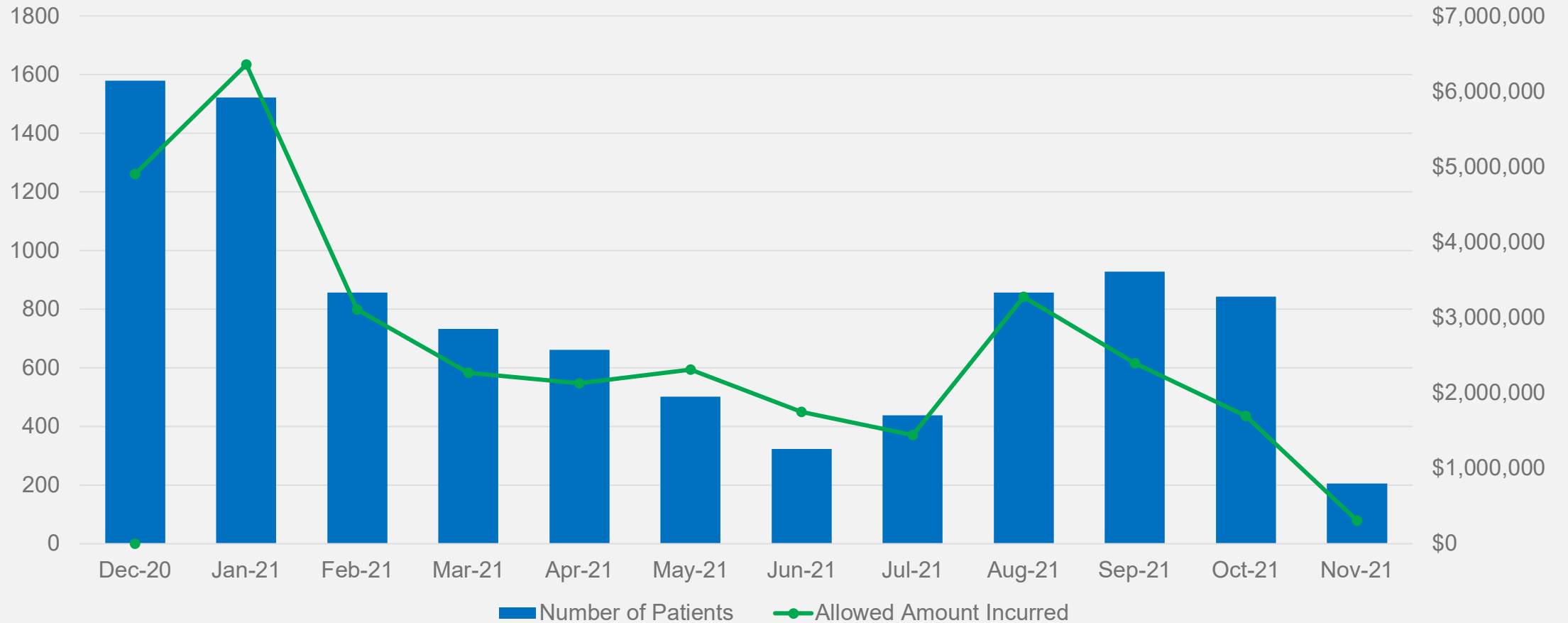
- Omicron variant has replaced Delta as dominant strain
- More transmissible
- Appears to evade both vaccinated and natural immunity
- Unvaccinated people more likely to become ill (3x), be hospitalized (10x) and die (14x)

Testing & Treatments

- OTC tests may miss early infections
 - Patients with positive lab tests may not test positive in OTC kits for up to 3 days
 - Those with symptoms and negative OTC test should seek lab tests
- Two new therapeutic drugs authorized
 - Paxlovid and molnupiravir
 - Federal government allocating to states

COVID-19 Patients & Costs

Dec 2020 – Nov 2021



COVID-19 Death Claims

Classification	Deaths as of 10/21/21	Deaths as of 1/26/22	Increase (%)
Active	18	32	14 (+78%)
Retiree	282	342	60 (+21%)
Spouse/Dependent	14	25	11 (+79%)
Total	314	399	85 (+27%)

- Total amount paid as of January 26, 2022: \$12,134,000

The background is a dark blue gradient with numerous out-of-focus light spots in shades of blue and purple, creating a bokeh effect.

Questions?