COVID-19 Coding and Reporting Information
New CPT®, HCPCS, and ICD-10 CM Codes
Last updated 6/4/20

This resource provides an overview of CPT, HCPCS, and ICD-CM codes related to COVID-19 treatment and testing. It is intended as an informational resource for ASCO members and should not be considered as official payment guidance. ASCO members are encouraged to confer directly with payers (both Medicare and private) for appropriate reporting guidelines, as they may vary by payer.

New CPT® codes have been developed to describe coronavirus testing provided by hospitals, health systems, and laboratories in the United States. Contact your third-party payers to confirm reimbursement, policies, and reporting guidelines.

NEW 0202U- Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected

CPT code 0202U was created to describe a “a multiplex amplified probe test that provides qualitative identification of multiple respiratory viral and bacterial pathogens from a single specimen obtained using nasopharyngeal swabs.” The code is effectively immediately and will be published in the CPT® 2021 code set.

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“Infectious Disease Testing for Bacterial or Viral Respiratory Tract Infection”

86328- Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

86769 -Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

CPT® code 86318 has also been revised to reflect updates in testing:

86318- Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip)
Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique

CPT® code 87635 differs from current CPT codes that mention coronavirus in the descriptor (87631, 87632, and 87633) in that it is specifically for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and any pan-coronavirus types or subtypes, and it can be reported with tests from multiple manufacturers using the stated technique.

Though CPT® code 87635 was effective as of March 13th, 2020, it will not be published in the AMA CPT® Professional Edition until 2021. Therefore, the code will need to be manually uploaded into your EHR system.

Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, that may not require the presence of a physician or other qualified health care professional. Usually, the presenting problem(s) are minimal. Typically, 5 minutes are spent performing or supervising these services.

Practitioners can be paid for assessment and specimen collection for COVID-19 testing with CPT code 99211 (level 1 E&M). Medicare will recognize this code for all patients, not just established ones. Check with private payers on their policies regarding this code.

Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) also developed two new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for coronavirus testing to be used for Medicare claims. They should not be used for private payer claims unless otherwise directed.

HCPCS Code Descriptions

U0001- Cdc 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-ncov) real-time rt-pcr diagnostic panel

HCPCS code U0001 should be used specifically for Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) testing laboratories to test patients for SARS-CoV-2 (CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel),

U0002- 2019-ncov coronavirus, sars-cov-2/2019-ncov (covid-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-cdc

U0002 allows laboratories to bill for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19).
U0003- Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R.

U0004- 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R.

HCPCS codes U0003 and U0004 identify tests that would otherwise be reported with CPT code 87635, but use high throughput technologies. Neither U0003 nor U0004 should be used for tests that detect COVID-19 antibodies.

C9803- Hospital outpatient clinic visit specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov-2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19])

HCPCS code C9803 describes symptom assessment and specimen collection performed by hospital outpatient departments. The service is paid as conditionally packaged when performed with another payable service under the OPPS.

Test Ordering

During the PHE, CMS is allowing any health care provider authorized under state law to order tests. Medicare will pay for tests without a written order from the treating physician or other practitioner:

- If an order is not written, an ordering or referring National Provider Identifier (NPI) is not required on the claim
- If an order is written, include the NPI of the ordering or referring professional, consistent with current billing guidelines

Check with private payers to determine their policies on test ordering.

Resource: [COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests for which Medicare Does Not Require a Practitioner Order During the PHE](#).

Cost Sharing

Effective March 18th, 2020 until the end of the Public Health Emergency, CMS is waiving coinsurance and deductible amounts under Medicare Part B for Medicare patients for certain COVID-19 testing-related services. The cost sharing waiver applies to medical visits when an outpatient provider, physician, or other providers and suppliers that bill Medicare for Part B services orders or administers COVID-19 lab tests U0001, U0002, or 87635.

Services/Visits for Which Cost Sharing is Waived

- Services resulting in an order for or administration of a COVID-19 test
- Services related to furnishing or administering such a test or to the evaluation of an individual for purposes of determining the need for such a test;
- Any of the following categories of HCPCS evaluation and management codes:
  - Office and other outpatient services
  - Hospital observation services
  - Emergency department services
  - Nursing facility services
  - Domiciliary, rest home, or custodial care services
  - Home services
  - Online digital evaluation and management services

CMS has also implemented a no cost-sharing requirement for group health plans and group and individual health insurance to cover both diagnostic testing and certain related items and services provided during a medical visit. This includes urgent care visits, emergency room visits, and in person telehealth visits that result in an order for or administration of a COVID-19 test.

**Reporting Information**
For Medicare claims, to indicate that a service is subject to the cost-sharing waiver the CS modifier must be added to the appropriate claim lines. If claims were submitted to Medicare without the CS modifier, notify the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) and request to submit the applicable claims.

These reporting instructions apply to Medicare beneficiary claims- check with private payers for their specific reporting guidelines.

**Other Modifiers**
During the Public Health Emergency, CMS has issued a number of waivers effective retroactively to March 1, 2020. (”, COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers”). To indicate a claim or claims for which a waiver is applicable, one of the following modifiers or condition codes may be reported:

CR Modifier (catastrophic/disaster related)- Applies to Part B items and services for institutional and non-institutional billing, using claims submission format X12 837 or CMS-1500

DR Modifier (disaster related)- Applies to institutional billing; claims submitted by providers using the ASC X12 837 institutional claim format or paper claim form CMS-1450

[MLN Matters SE2011](#) further breaks down the appropriate uses of the modifiers by the type of waiver and flexibility.

**ICD-10 CM Codes**
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed coding guidance for health care encounters and deaths related to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
In certain circumstances, other codes for conditions not related to coronavirus may be required in accordance with the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting. A hyphen at the end of a code indicates an additional character is required.

**Coronavirus Infection**

**Code Description**  
U07.1-COVID-19, virus identified

**Coding Instructions**  
In response to the national emergency that was declared concerning the COVID-19 outbreak, a new diagnosis code, U07.1, COVID-19, has been implemented, effective April 1, 2020.

ICD-10 code U07.1 may be reported if:

- If the patient has a confirmed diagnosis of the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as documented by the provider;
- Documentation of a positive COVID-19 test result; or
- A presumptive positive COVID-19 test result. A presumptive positive test result is defined as an “individual has tested positive for the virus at a local or state level, but it has not yet been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

If COVID is the principal diagnosis, it should be listed first and then followed by the appropriate codes for associated manifestations.

Do not report U071.1 if the providers documentation indicates the patient’s condition is "suspected," "possible," "probable," or “inconclusive” COVID19. In that case, report a code(s) indicating the reason for encounter (ex. a fever) or Z20.828 (Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases).

**Pneumonia**

For a pneumonia case confirmed due to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) assign codes:

- J12.89 - Other viral pneumonia and
- B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

**Acute Bronchitis**

For a patient with acute bronchitis confirmed as due to COVID-19, assign codes:

- J20.8 - Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms and
B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

Bronchitis not otherwise specified (NOS) due to the COVID-19 should be coded using code:

J40 - Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic along with

B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

**Lower Respiratory Infection**

If the COVID-19 is documented as being associated with a lower respiratory infection, not otherwise specified (NOS), or an acute respiratory infection, NOS, assign codes:

J22 - Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection with

B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

If the COVID-19 is documented as being associated with a respiratory infection, NOS, assign code:

J98.8 - Other specified respiratory disorders with

B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

**Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)**

Cases with ARDS due to COVID-19 should be assigned the codes:

J80 - Acute respiratory distress syndrome and

B97.29, Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

**Exposure to COVID-19**

For cases where there is a concern about a possible exposure to COVID-19, but is ruled out after an evaluation, it would be appropriate to assign the code:

Z03.818 - Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out

For cases where there is an actual exposure to someone confirmed to have COVID-19, assign the code:

Z20.828 - Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases
Signs and symptoms
For patients with any signs/symptoms (such as fever, etc.) and where a definitive diagnosis has not been determined, assign the appropriate code(s) for each of the presenting signs and symptoms such as:

R05 - Cough
R06.02 - Shortness of breath
R50.9 - Fever, unspecified

The diagnosis code B34.2 (Coronavirus infection, unspecified) would in general *not* be appropriate for the COVID-19, as the cases have universally been respiratory in nature. Therefore, the site would not be “unspecified.”

If the provider documents “suspected”, “possible” or “probable” COVID-19, *do not* assign code B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere). Assign a code or codes explaining the reason for encounter, such as fever, or Z20.828 (Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases).

Resources

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Laboratories: Medicare Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19
CMS-Ruling 2020-1-R
Update to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) for Vaping Related Disorder and 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (April 1, 2020)
Update to the Home Health Grouper for New Diagnosis Code for Vaping Related Disorder and COVID-19
MLN Connects: Friday, April 10th 2020
FAQS ABOUT FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT AND CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT IMPLEMENTATION PART 42
Public Health News Alert: CMS Develops New Code for Coronavirus Lab Test

Coverage and Payment Related to COVID-19
MLN Matters Number: SE20011 (Revised)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines - Supplement Coding encounters related to COVID-19 Coronavirus Outbreak
ICD-10-CM Official Coding and Reporting Guidelines April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020

World Health Organization
COVID-19 coding in ICD-10

American Hospital Association
AHA: Frequently Asked Questions Regarding ICD-10-CM Coding for COVID-19

American Medical Association
May Update: Infectious Disease Testing for Bacterial or Viral Respiratory Tract Infection
April Update: SARS-CoV-2 Serologic Laboratory Testing
AMA Fact Sheet: Reporting Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Laboratory Testing
CPT reporting for COVID-19 Testing
Special coding advice during COVID-19 public health emergency

Coding and Billing Questions
Questions regarding billing and coding can be sent to ASCO at billingandcoding@asco.org.