

COVID-19 GENERAL CODING GUIDANCE

Several updates have been made to industry code sets used in healthcare billing and other healthcare transactions, to support patient diagnosis, care, or treatment related to COVID-19.

ICD-10-CM				
Action	Code	Description	Announced	Effective
New Code	U07.1	COVID-19 (Confirmed Diagnosis)	2/20/2020: Notification by CDC	10/1/2020
			3/18/2020: Off-cycle change to effective date by CDC	4/1/2020
New Code	U07.2	COVID-19, virus not identified	3/25/2020 by WHO	NOT APPROVED FOR USE IN ICD-10-CM
HCPCS				
Action	Code	Description	Announced	Effective
New Code	U0001	CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel	2/13/2020 by CMS	4/1/2020
New Code	U0002	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC	3/5/2020 by CMS	CMS allows for dates of service on or after 2/4/2020
New Code	G2023	Specimen collection for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source	3/31/2020 by CMS	3/1/2020 CMS allows for line item dates of service on or after 1/1/2020



HCPCS, cont.				
Action	Code	Use	Announced	Effective
New Code	G2024	Specimen collection for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) from an individual in a SNF or by a laboratory on behalf of a HHA, any specimen source	3/31/2020 by CMS	3/1/2020 CMS allows for line item dates of service on or after 1/1/2020
Modifier Code Description Change	CS	Cost-sharing for specified covid-19 testing-related services that result in an order for or administration of a covid-19 test	3/31/2020 by CMS	No change to modifier effective date
New Code	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	4/14/2020 by CMS	4/14/2020 CMS allows as described by CMS Ruling 2020-1-R. See also CMS COVID-19 FAQ .
New Code	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		
Modifier Usage	QW	Medicare will permit the use of codes U0002QW and 87635QW for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after March 20, 2020.	4/27/2020 by CMS	4/20/2020 for dates of service on or after 3/20/2020
Modifier Usage	QW	Medicare will permit the use of code 87426QW for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after June 25, 2020.	7/24/2020 by CMS	For dates of service on or after 6/25/2020



HCPCS, cont.				
Action	Code	Use	Announced	Effective
New Code	G2025	Payment for a telehealth distant site service furnished by a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) only	5/1/2020 by CMS	RHC Claims for Telehealth Services from January 27, 2020 through June 30, 2020
New Code	G2168	Services performed by a physical therapist assistant in the home health setting in the delivery of a safe and effective physical therapy maintenance program, each 15 minutes	5/1/2020 by CMS	10/5/2020 for dates of service on or after January 1, 2020
New Code	G2169	Services performed by an occupational therapist assistant in the home health setting in the delivery of a safe and effective occupational therapy maintenance program, each 15 minutes	5/1/2020 by CMS	10/5/2020 for dates of service on or after January 1, 2020
New Code	C9803	Hospital outpatient clinic visit specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov-2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19]), any specimen source.	5/7/2020 by CMS	5/8/2020 for dates of service on or after March 1, 2020
CPT				
Action	Code	Description	Announced	Effective
New Code	87635	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	3/13/2020 by AMA	3/13/2020 per AMA
Use of Condition Code	DR	Condition Code "DR-Disaster Related" is valid for use for COVID-19 related claims on the CMS-1500 claim form and electronic HIPAA X12N 837 Professional claims	3/24/2020 by NUCC	3/24/2020 per NUCC
Use of Condition Code	DR	Part A claims for which Medicare payment is based on a "formal waiver" including, but not limited to, Section 1135 or Section 1812(f).	4/10/2020 by CMS	No change to condition code effective date



CPT, cont.				
Action	Code	Description	Announced	Effective
Use of Modifier Code	CR	Part B claims for which Medicare payment is based on a "formal waiver" including, but not limited to, Section 1135 or Section 1812(f). Not required on Telehealth.	4/10/2020 by CMS	No change to modifier code effective date
New Code	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])	4/10/2020 by AMA	4/10/2020 per AMA
New Code	86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	4/10/2020 by AMA	4/10/2020 per AMA
Code Revision	86318	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip)	4/10/2020 by AMA	4/10/2020 per AMA
New Code	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	May Update, CPT Assistant by AMA	5/20/2020 per AMA



CPT, cont.				
Action	Code	Description	Announced	Effective
New Code	87426	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], Immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19])	AMA Press Release, 6/25/2020	6/25/2020 per AMA
New PLA Code	0223U	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	June Update, CPT Assistant by AMA	6/25/2020 per AMA
New PLA Code	0224U	Antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), includes titer(s), when performed	June Update, CPT Assistant by AMA	6/25/2020 per AMA
LOINC				
Several Special Use LOINC codes related to SARS Coronavirus 2 have been developed that are currently in prerelease status.				



ACTION REQUIRED BY CUSTOMER

Please ensure your clinical and administrative provider software systems are updated to support these recent code set updates. Reach out to your software vendor(s) as applicable.

New information is being published frequently in response to COVID-19. Commercial payers may or may not follow Medicare billing guidelines. Please continue to monitor payer communications and billing guidelines as to when each payer will be ready to accept and process transactions with the new codes and for determination of service coverage.

ACTION TAKEN BY CHANGE HEALTHCARE

Change Healthcare obtained all code set updates specific to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 for immediate deployment across all Change Healthcare systems, solutions, and services.

As the coronavirus situation continues to evolve, Change Healthcare is taking swift action to protect your information and the integrity of business operations. We are committed to protecting the data and people that help inspire a better healthcare system. The safety and well-being of our employees, our partners, and our customers are of critical importance to us. We continue to monitor this situation and will respond accordingly as conditions change.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Change Healthcare Resource Hub
[COVID-19 Updates and Resources](#)

Specific to Telehealth Benefits:

<https://www.changehealthcare.com/covid-19/faq-telehealth-benefits-and-coding-for-covid-19>

Federal Government Resource Hub
<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

CDC Resource Hub
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>



CMS

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

CMS Waivers & Flexibilities

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Resources/Waivers-and-flexibilities>

AMA

<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-2019-novel-coronavirus-resource-center-physicians>

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-06/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus-june-2020.pdf>

AHA

<https://www.aha.org/2020-01-22-updates-and-resources-novel-coronavirus-2019-cov>

WEDI

<https://www.wedi.org/2020/03/18/covid-19-resources-information/>