

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 ¹
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
ICD-10-PCS				
Action	Description			Effective
New Codes	43 new COVID-19 ICD-10-PCS codes were added. See the CMS notification on ICD-10-PCS Covid-19 codes for 2021 .			1/1/2021
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 CMS allows for dates of service on or after 2/4/2020
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	

¹ Effective refers to the date the code can be used. Individual payers, such as CMS, independently determine their effective date for billing and payment purposes.



HCPCS, cont.				
Action	Code	Use	Announced	Effective
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
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



HCPCS, cont.				
Action	Code	Use	Announced	Effective
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
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
New Code	U0005	IA DET NA; SARS-COV-2 COVID-19	10/15/2020 by CMS	01/01/2021
New Code	Q0243	Injection, casirivimab and imdevimab, 2400 mg	1/1/2021 by CMS	11/21/2020
New Code	M0243	intravenous infusion, casirivimab and imdevimab includes infusion and post administration monitoring	1/1/2021 by CMS	11/21/2020
New Code	Q0245	Injection, bamlanivimab and etesevimab, 2100 mg	2/9/2021 by CMS	2/9/2021 for dates of service on or after March 1, 2020



HCPCS, cont.				
Action	Code	Use	Announced	Effective
New Code	M0245	intravenous infusion, bamlanivimab and etesevimab, includes infusion and post administration monitoring	2/9/2021 by CMS	2/9/2021 for dates of service on or after March 1, 2020

CPT				
Action	Code	Description	Announced	Effective
Due to the frequency of COVID-related CPT code updates, please refer to the following web page for updates to the CPT code set: https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt/covid-19-cpt-coding-and-guidance				
You can also subscribe for related announcements for free at this link: https://info.commerce.ama-assn.org/cpt-news-subscription				

LOINC				
The LONC has been updated to reflect the publication issued on December 15, 2020. See https://loinc.org/sars-cov-2-and-covid-19				

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/>