

## COVID-19 Coding Information New CPT<sup>®</sup>, HCPCS, and ICD-10 CM Codes

*Last updated 3/26/20*

This resource provides an overview of CPT, HCPCS, and ICD-CM codes related to COVID-19 treatment and testing. This is being provided 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.

### Current Procedural Terminology<sup>®</sup> (CPT) Code

A new CPT<sup>®</sup> code has been created to describe coronavirus testing provided by hospitals, health systems and laboratories in the United States effective **March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

#### CPT<sup>®</sup> Code Description

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

CPT<sup>®</sup> 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.

Since this CPT code will not be published until 2021, you will need to manually upload it into your EHR system.

#### Resource

[AMA Fact Sheet: Reporting Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(SARS-CoV-2\) Laboratory Testing](#)

### 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

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

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), while U0002 allows laboratories to bill for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19).

### HCPCS Code Payment Rates

HCPCS Code	National Payment Rate
U0001- 2019-ncov diagnostic p	\$35.91
U0002- Covid-19 lab test non-cdc	\$51.31

Claims processing systems will begin accepting these codes on April 1, 2020 for dates of service on or after February 4, 2020.

For original Medicare, beneficiaries will have zero cost sharing (as with other lab tests).

### Resources

[Public Health News Alert: CMS Develops New Code for Coronavirus Lab Test](#)

[Coverage and Payment Related to COVID-19](#)

### 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.

### 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).

### Resource

[ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines - Supplement Coding encounters related to COVID-19 Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

### Coding and Billing Questions

Questions regarding billing and coding can be sent to ASCO at [billingandcoding@asco.org](mailto:billingandcoding@asco.org).