



Network Notification

Notice Date: April 13, 2020
To: Indiana Marketplace Providers
From: CareSource
Subject: COVID-19: Coding and Billing for Testing Services

Beginning on May 12, 2023, this notification is expiring in alignment with the end of the Public Health Emergency.

Summary

The [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) has approved Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) code 87635 for laboratory testing of COVID-19 (coronavirus). This code is specific to billing for the collection of a specimen related to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which is the official name of the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

AMA has also published guidance regarding the reporting of CPT code 87635: [Reporting Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(SARS-CoV-2\) Laboratory Testing](#)

Impact

Reporting CPT Codes

AMA indicates that code 87635 does not require reporting of an additional CPT code for this service. There are no known restrictions on the reporting of code 87635, if performed as a separate assay, with code 87631, 87632, 87633, 0098U, 0099U, or 0100U. Codes selected should accurately describe the service provided.

Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs from the upper respiratory system are analyzed for initial diagnostic testing. If a laboratory is requested to test multiple separate specimens for the same virus, on the same patient, on the same day, report code 87635, and a second unit of code 87635, appended with modifier 59, Distinct Procedural Service. Per CPT reporting guidelines for microbiology codes, when separate assays are performed on multiple specimens, modifier 59 should be used to indicate that the results represent the separate services performed.

Reporting HCPCS Codes

There are two available HCPCS codes for COVID-19 laboratory testing. HCPCS code U0001 is only to be used for the tests developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CDC). Laboratories performing non-CDC laboratory tests for COVID-19 are to bill using HCPCS code U0002.

When billing for the lab diagnostic testing, the codes below may be submitted for reimbursement:

- U0001 – CDC 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-ncov) real-time RT-PCR diagnostic panel
- U0002 – non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19)

Claims may be submitted using either the UB-04 or CMS-1500 and must utilize the appropriate place of service and bill type.

Reporting Diagnosis Codes

For more information about ICD-10-CM codes U07.0 and U07.1, see the Internal Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) page of the [CDC National Center for Health Statistics \(NCHS\) website](#).

Resources

AMA has published additional resources to guide providers in properly billing for COVID-19:

- [Special Coding Advice During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- [COVID-19 CPT Reporting and Testing Chart](#)

Questions?

Please continue referring to the [Centers for Disease and Control Prevention \(CDC\)](#) website to stay updated on the COVID-19 virus and best practice recommendations.

Visit CareSource's [COVID-19 Provider Resource Center](#) and continue checking our [Updates & Announcements page](#) for COVID-19-related communications.

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