

Quick reference

UPDATED 5/29/20

COVID-19 Coronavirus diagnosis testing



Laboratory Testing

Payer and test methodology determine the testing code submitted

Apply Modifier CS, Cost Sharing Waiver

Non-High Throughput Testing

Reported once per specimen obtained as of April 1, 2020

Medicare CDC Test Methodology

➔ **U0001** – CDC 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) real-time rt-pcr diagnostic panel, for use with CDC developed testing.

Non-CDC Test Methodology

➔ **U0002** – 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19) using any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), for non-CDC developed testing (e.g., hospital specific in-house developed testing).

Nucleic Acid Amplified Probe Methodology

➔ **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.

NOTE: CMS indicated that providers may report **87635** for tests performed by amplified probe technique and report **U0002** for all other non-CDC test methods.

High Throughput Testing – Reported as April 15, 2020

➔ **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.

Antibody testing – Reported as of April 14, 2020

➔ **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]).



Diagnosis Coding

⊕ Confirmed cases of Coronavirus infection

No longer report ICD-10 code B97.29

Other Coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere.

Report Primary Diagnosis Code **U07.1**, COVID-19-nCoV acute respiratory disease and any Secondary ICD-10 code as applicable.

Example: For a pneumonia case confirmed as due to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), assign codes U07.1, COVID-19-nCoV acute respiratory disease and J12.89, Other viral pneumonia.

⚠ Possible Exposure to COVID-19

Z03.818

Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out. Report when patients were possibly exposed to COVID-19 which has been ruled out.

✔ Confirmed Exposure to COVID-19

Z20.828

Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases. Report when patients have actual exposure to COVID-19 without development of the disease.

❓ Unconfirmed COVID-19

A diagnosis of “suspected”, “probable”, or “possible” COVID-19 should be assigned a code for the sign/symptom explaining the reason for the encounter such as fever or cough. ■

UPDATED INFO

Yellow highlights denote updated content from previous published versions