

COVID-19 Provider Documentation Tips



What constitutes a “confirmed” COVID-19 patient (must meet one of the below):

- Physician documentation of “COVID-19” based on clinical assessment and treatment plan (i.e. a positive COVID-19 test result is not required for a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis due to false negatives and test availability) **OR**
- Positive COVID-19 test result

Terminology/documentation to use for “confirmed” COVID-19:

- COVID-19
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2)
- 2019 novel coronavirus (nCoV)
- Novel coronavirus
- ****Note that “coronavirus” is not sufficient documentation for coders to capture COVID-19****

Document the medical decision making for testing and/or reason for admission, including “rule out” cases where COVID-19 test is pending or negative or cases where the test could not be performed.

Document reason for COVID-19 testing and any possible, suspected or known COVID-19 exposure, including “rule out” cases where COVID-19 test is pending or negative or cases where the test could not be performed.

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If COVID-19 is documented as “suspected, possible, etc.” at the time of admission, ensure that COVID-19 is documented as ruled in or ruled out as soon as clinically appropriate and/or prior to patient’s discharge from the hospital.

Clearly document the manifestation(s) of the condition rather than just “COVID-19 infections:”

- Pneumonia
- Bronchitis
- URI / LRTI
- Non-respiratory manifestations such as paresthesia, seizures, encephalopathy, etc.

Document any COVID-19 related conditions as “____ related to COVID-19:”

- Sepsis
- ARF/ARDS
- Dehydration / AKI
- Shock

Disclaimer: The education provided is based on interpretation coding guidelines found at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm>. Enjoin does not warrant that the materials presented are free of error and is not intended to provide coding recommendation on any particular case. Coding guidelines and other information may change and guidance will be updated periodically. Education is current as of 4/9/2020.