Quick reference

COVID-19 Coronavirus diagnosis testing as of April 15, 2020

UPDATED INFO

Since previous publication, this content has been updated



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 rtpcr diagnostic panel, for use with CDC developed testing

Medicare 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 inhouse developed testing)

Non-Medicare 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

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.

① 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. ■

