

Telehealth and COVID-19: 2020 Coding and Billing Tips

Effective date: June, 2020

Screening for COVID-19

For **asymptomatic** individuals who are being screened for COVID-19 and have no known exposure to the virus, and the **test results** are either **unknown or negative**.

ICD 10-CM code **Z11.59**

Encounter for screening for other viral diseases

Possible/Actual Exposure to COVID-19

Encounter for **possible exposure**

Encounter for **actual exposure**

Z03.818 Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out

Z20.828 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases

Signs/Symptoms related to COVID-19

For patients presenting with any signs/symptoms relating to COVID-19 (such as fever, shortness of breath, cough, fatigue) **where definitive diagnosis has not been established**, assign the appropriate code(s) for each of the presenting signs and symptoms plus any conditions that are not an integral part of a disease process when present.

R06.2 Shortness of breath

R05 Cough

R53.83 Other fatigue

R50.9 Fever unspecified

Coding Example

Scenario

Effective **02/20/2020**

Fever, cough, actual exposure to COVID-19 - diagnosis not established

R50.9 Fever unspecified

R05 Cough

Z20.828 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases

Only Confirmed/Positive COVID-19

Date of Service **03/31/2020** or prior

Date of Service effective **04/01/2020**

ICD 10-CM code **B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere**, should be used to report a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19

ICD 10-CM code **U07.1 - 2019 nCoV acute respiratory disease**, should be used to report a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19

Coding Example

Scenario

Effective **02/20/2020 - 03/31/2020**

Effective **04/01/2020**

Acute bronchitis confirmed as due to COVID-19

J20.8 Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms

U07.1 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease

B97.29 Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

J20.8 Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms

Laboratory Tests to Confirm COVID-19

Effective **03/18/2020** and through the end of the COVID-19 Emergency

For certain COVID-19 testing related services, coinsurance and deductible amounts are waived. Use modifier **CS** on **applicable claim** lines.

Modifier **CS** Use the CS modifier on applicable claim lines to identify the service as subject to the cost-sharing waiver for COVID-19 testing-related services.

Note: If your office is not running the test for COVID-19 or incurring the cost, you will not report these codes

Effective **02/04/2020**

Effective **03/13/2020**

HCPCS Code U0001 CDC, 2019 nCoV Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel. Reported by laboratories using CDC test kit

HCPCS Code U0002 Non-CDC, 2019 nCoV Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV(COVID-19) any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets). Reported by any validated laboratories not using CDC test kit

CPT Code 87635 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) SARS Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique). Reported by hospitals, health system and laboratories using method specified by CPT code description

Laboratory Tests to Confirm COVID-19 - Performed With High Throughput Technologies

Effective **03/18/2020** and for the COVID-19 emergency

HCPCS Code 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

HCPCS Code 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

Laboratory Tests to Identify the Presence of Antibodies to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Effective **04/10/2020**

CPT Code 86328 Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semi-quantitative, single step method (e.g. reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

CPT Code 86769 Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

TELEHEALTH/TELEMEDICINE (COVID-19)

Visit with a provider that uses telecommunication system between a provider and patient

For the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency CMS has expanded access to Telehealth services for Medicare patients.

Effective 03/06/20 - Services can be provided in all settings, including a patient's home, and can be provided for beneficiaries who have audio phones only. Health plans may also cover these extended benefits for Medicaid, Marketplace, and Commercial.

Refer to your payer guidelines on reporting Telehealth/Telemedicine.

When billing professional claims for all Telehealth services **effective 03/01/2020** and for the duration of COVID-19 Emergency, bill with:

Place of Service (POS) equal to what it would have been had the service been furnished in-person

Modifier 95, indicating that the service rendered was actually performed via telehealth

Note: Before billing refer to your payer guidelines on reporting applicable POS and Modifier.

POS and Modifiers

POS 02 Telehealth - The location where health services and health related services are provided or received, through a telecommunication system. **Note:** This Telehealth POS code does not apply to Originating Site facilities billing a facility fee.

Modifier **95** Synchronous Telemedicine Service Rendered Via a Real-Time Interactive Audio and Video Telecommunications system.

Modifier GT	Via Interactive Audio and Video Telecommunications Systems. Note: Except for institutional claims, Medicare stopped using this modifier in 2017 after POS-02 was introduced. Use this modifier if billing CAH Optional Payment Method II. Commercial carriers request it.	
Modifier G0	Telehealth services furnished for purposes of diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of symptoms of an acute stroke.	
Common Medicare Telehealth Services		
CPT Codes 99201 - 99215	Office or other outpatient visits	New/Established patient
HCPCS Codes G0425 - G0427	Telehealth consultations, emergency department or initial inpatient	To the extent the 1135 waiver requires an established relationship. HHS will not conduct audits to ensure that such a prior relationship existed for claims submitted during this public health emergency.
HCPCS Codes G0406 - G0408	Follow up inpatient telehealth consultations furnished to beneficiaries in hospitals or SNFs	
Temporary Added Telehealth Services for the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency (Medicare; health plans may also extend to other lines of business)		
CPT Codes 99217 - 99220, 99234 - 99236	Facility Observation Visits/Discharge	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
CPT Codes 99221 - 99223, 99238 - 99239	Inpatient Hospital Visits/Discharge	
CPT Codes 99281 - 99285	Emergency Departments Visits	
CPT Codes 99291 - 99292	Critical Care Services	
CPT Codes 99304 - 99306, 99315 - 99316	Nursing Facility Visits/Discharge	
CPT Codes 99341 - 99345, 99347 - 99350	Home Visits	
E-Visits		
All types of locations including the patient's home, and in all areas. May have non-face-to-face patient-initiated communications.		
Communication between a patient and physician through an online patient portal		
CPT Code 99421	up to 7 days (5-10 min)	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
CPT Code 99422	up to 7 days (11-20 min)	
CPT Code 99423	up to 7 days (21 or more min)	
Communication between a patient and qualified non-physician through an online patient portal		
HCPCS Code G2061	up to 7 days (5-10 min)	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
HCPCS Code G2062	up to 7 days (11-20 min)	
HCPCS Code G2063	up to 7 days (21 or more min)	
Remote Evaluation of Patient-Submitted Images and Video, Including Interpretation		
HCPCS Code G2010	Not related to an E/M within the previous 7 days, not leading to an E/M within next 24 hours	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
Remote Monitoring/Collection Biological Data		
CPT Code 99453	Remote monitoring of physiologic parameter(s) (g. weight, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, respiratory flow), initial; set-up and patient education on use of equipment.	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
CPT Code 99454	Remote monitoring of physiologic parameter(s) (g. weight, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, respiratory flow), initial ; device(s) supply with daily recording (s) or programmed alert(s) transmission, each 30 days.	
CPT Code 99473	Self-measured blood pressure using a device validated for clinical accuracy; patient education/training and device calibration	
CPT Code 99454	Separate self-measurements of two readings one minute apart, twice daily over a 30 day period (minimum 12 readings). Subsequent communication of a treatment plan to the patient	
Remote Monitoring Management Clinical/Physicians/Other Qualified Health Care Professionals		
CPT Code 99457	Remote physiologic monitoring treatment management services, requiring interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the month; first 20 minutes.	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
CPT Code 99458	Remote physiologic monitoring treatment management services, requiring interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the month; each additional 20 minutes (List separately in addition to code for procedure).	
Services Rendered by In-Network Providers		
Virtual Check-In		
In all areas (not just rural). The patient must verbally consent to receive virtual check-in services (can be obtained before or at the time of service) Brief communication by physician or qualified health care professional via telephone or other telecommunications device		
HCPCS Code G2012	Not related to an E/M within the previous 7 days, not leading to an E/M within next 24 hours (5-10 min)	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
Patient Initiated Telephone Calls For Patient Management (Qualified Health Care Professional)		
CPT Code 99441	Not related to an E/M within the previous 7 days, not leading to an E/M within next 24 hours (5-10 min)	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
CPT Code 99442	Not related to an E/M within the previous 7 days, not leading to an E/M within next 24 hours (11-20 min)	
CPT Code 99443	Not related to an E/M within the previous 7 days, not leading to an E/M within next 24 hours (21-30 min)	
Patient Initiated Telephone Calls For Patient Management (Non-Physician Health Care Professional)		
CPT Code 98966	Not related to an E/M within the previous 7 days, not leading to an E/M within next 24 hours (5-10 min)	New/Established patient (effective 03/01/20 for the COVID-19 emergency)
CPT Code 98967	Not related to an E/M within the previous 7 days, not leading to an E/M within next 24 hours (11-20 min)	
CPT Code 98968	Not related to an E/M within the previous 7 days, not leading to an E/M within next 24 hours (21-30 min)	