



COVID-19 Coding Updates

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The following coding updates, as well as guidance on using existing codes, have been announced to enable clinical documentation and billing of care provided to patients being tested and/or treated for COVID-19. The information below is current as of March 27, 2020.

For telehealth coding, please see HBI's **Telehealth Billing During the COVID-19 Pandemic** (click [here](#)).

| Condition Codes | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Code | Description | Effective |
| DR | Disaster-Related <i>To be applied to Medicare institutional claims billed under CMS blanket waivers described here</i> | Now and is retroactive to March 1, 2020 |
| CPT | | |
| Code | Description | Effective |
| 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 <i>Additional info from American Medical Association here</i> | Now |
| 99000 | Handling and/or conveyance of specimen for transfer from the physician's office to a laboratory | Now |
| 99091 | Handling and/or conveyance of specimen for transfer from the patient in other than an office to a laboratory (distance may be indicated) | Now |
| HCPCS | | |
| Code | Description | Effective |
| U0001 | Used to bill for the CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel | April 1, 2020, and will be retroactive for Medicare claims for care on February 4, 2020, or later |
| U0002 | Used to bill for other COVID-19 testing <i>Additional info from CMS available here</i> | April 1, 2020, and will be retroactive for Medicare claims for care on February 4, 2020, or later |

ICD-10-CM

| Code | Description | Effective |
|-------|--|--|
| U07.1 | 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease <i>Additional guidance on usage from the American Hospital Association and the American Health Information Management Association is available here</i> | April 1, 2020, and will not be retroactive <i>Interim coding guidance from the CDC available here</i> |

Modifiers

| Modifier | Description | Effective |
|----------|---|---|
| CR | Catastrophe/Disaster-Related <i>To be used on Medicare Part B claims billed under CMS blanket waivers described here</i> | Now and is retroactive to March 1, 2020 |

MS-DRGs

| Major Diagnostic Category | MS-DRGs | Effective |
|---|--|--|
| 04 Diseases & Disorders of the Respiratory System | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 177: Respiratory Infections and Inflammations with Major Complication/Comorbidity 178: Respiratory Infections and Inflammations with Complication/Comorbidity 179: Respiratory Infections and Inflammations Without CC/MCC | April 1, 2020, and will not be retroactive <i>Additional info from CMS available here</i> |
| 15 Newborns and Other Neonates with Conditions Originating in Perinatal Period | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 791: Prematurity with Major Problems 793: Full Term Neonate with Major Problems | |
| 25 Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 974: HIV with Major Related Condition with MCC 975: HIV with Major Related Condition with CC 976: HIV with Major Related Condition Without CC/MCC | |

COVID-19 is an ongoing situation and organizations' processes are changing daily to adapt to various needs during this crisis. As such, this information is up-to-date as of March 27, 2020. HBI is continually monitoring the situation and updating material as we gather additional information. While HBI has attempted to ensure the accuracy of research provided in this document, the information has been obtained from numerous resources. Therefore, HBI cannot guarantee its accuracy and is not liable for any claims or losses that arise from errors or omissions within this document.