

Reimbursement

COVID-19 Antigen Testing Billing

How we can bill Medicare Part B for antigen testing of residents?

CMS has identified two level II HCPCS codes effective March 1, 2020

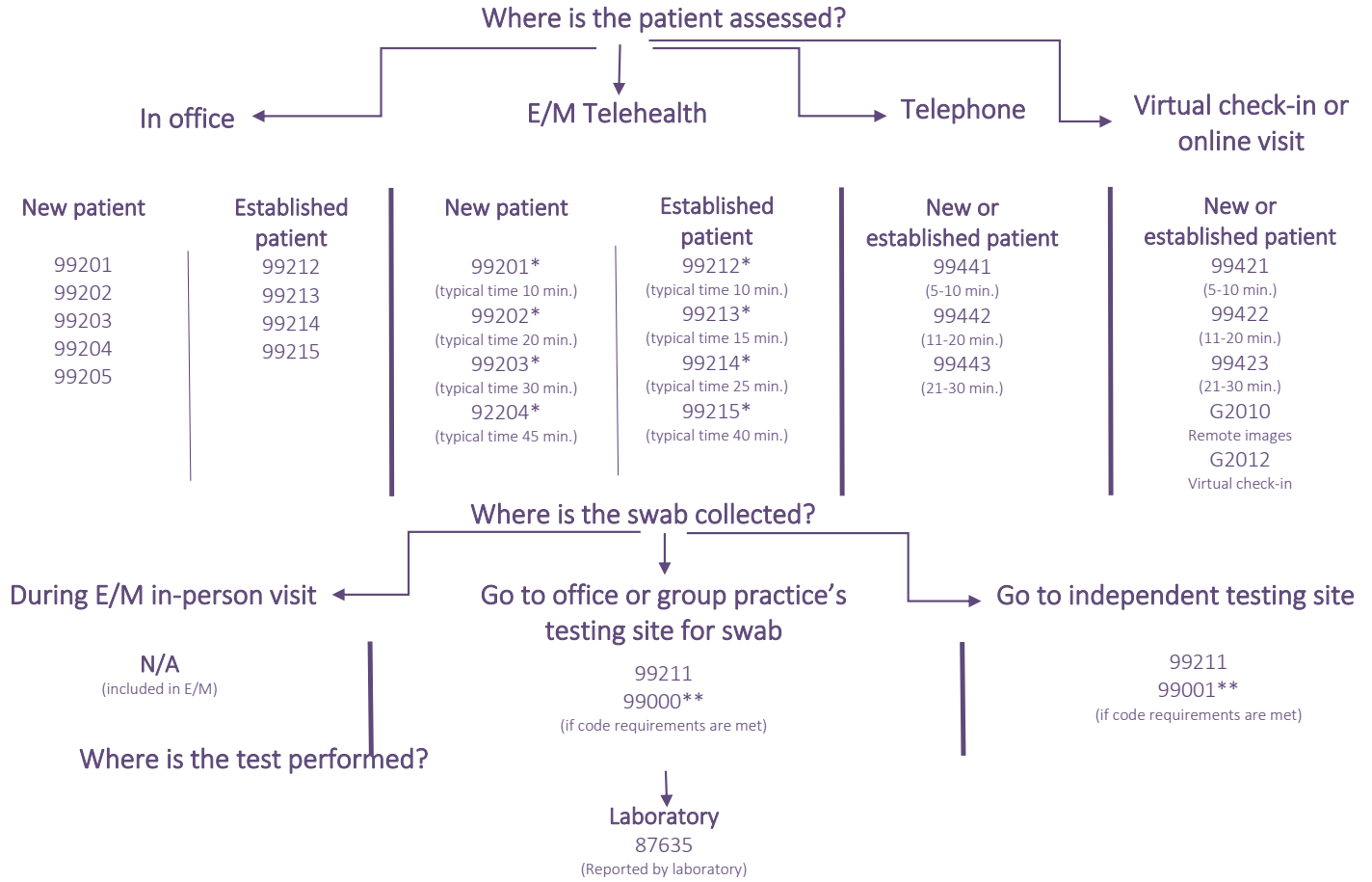
- **G2023:** Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source \$23.46.
- **G2024:** Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a SNF or by a laboratory on behalf of a HHA, any specimen source We note that G2024 is applicable to patients in a non-covered stay in a SNF and not to those residents in Medicare-covered stays (whose bundled lab tests would be covered instead under Part A's SNF benefit at §1861(h) of the Act). Updated: 4/17/20 \$25.46.

Additionally, CMS has repurposed the CS modifier for COVID -19. For services starting March 18, 2020, through the end of the PHE providers that bill Medicare part B services should use the CS modifier on claims to identify the service as subject to the cost-sharing waiver for COVID 19 testing related service. Medicare patients should not be charged.

The above is for facilities with a **CLIA in place**.

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*See Medicare will pay telehealth at office visit rates and not conduct audits to ensure prior relationship.

CMS requires use of modifier 95 for telehealth services; other payors may require its use.

Individual states (through Executive Order) or payors may permit use of E/M codes with audio-only encounters.

CMS will permit reporting of telehealth E/M office or other outpatient visits based on time or Medical Decision Making (MDM).

**Check with specific payor. Not covered by Medicare.

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CPT®

COVID-19 CPT Coding and Guidance

Updated November 10,2020

New Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes have been created that streamline the novel coronavirus testing currently available on the United States market.

New Codes for Immunizations

CPT codes have been created for reporting of immunizations for the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2,also known as COVID-19).These CPT codes are unique for each of two coronavirus vaccines as well as administration codes unique to each such vaccine. The new CPT codes clinically distinguish each coronavirus vaccine for better tracking, reporting and analysis that supports data-driven planning and allocation.

Among these is a new code to describe the additional supplies and clinical staff time required to mitigate transmission of respiratory infectious disease while providing evaluation, treatment or procedural services during a public health emergency.

Featured updates: COVID-19

Track the evolving situation with the AMA's library of the most up-to-date resources from JAMA,CDC and WHO.

Read the Latest

Summary of the SARS-CoV-2 related CPT codes

Review a summary of the SARS-CoV-2 related CPT codes that have been approved and published for the 2021 CPT code set.

Accepted addition of code 87635 to report 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. The new code was effective March 13,2020.

Accepted revision of code 86318 to report immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies) and to be a parent to 86328;addition of code 86328 to report single step antibody testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; addition of child code 86769 to report multiple-step antibody testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2;and revision of the Immunology guidelines. The new codes and revision were effective April 10, 2020.

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Accepted addition of PLACode 0202U to report the BioFire® Respiratory Panel 2.1 (RP2.1) test. The new code was effective May 20, 2020.

Accepted addition of code 87426 to report infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique of SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2. In addition, two new PLA codes (0223U and 0224U) were accepted for detection of SARS-CoV-2.

Accepted addition of codes 86408 for reporting coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) neutralizing antibody screen and 86409 for reporting coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) neutralizing antibody titer. In addition, two new PLA codes (0225U and 0226U) were accepted for detection of SARS-CoV-2. These new codes are effective August 10, 2020.

Accepted addition of code 99072 for the additional supplies and clinical staff time required to mitigate transmission of respiratory infectious disease while providing evaluation, treatment, or procedural services during a public health emergency, as defined by law. In addition, one *code*, 86413, was created for reporting quantitative antibody detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Accepted addition of code 87636 for reporting combined respiratory virus multiplex testing for either SARS-CoV-2 with Influenza A&B, code 87637 for combined respiratory virus multiplex testing for either SARS-CoV-2 with Influenza A&B and RSV and 87811 for antigen detection of SARS-CoV-2 by direct optical (i.e., visual) observation. Two new PLA codes (0240U and 0241U) were accepted for detection of SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A and Influenza B; code 0241U also detects RSV. Additionally, Immunology guidelines were also revised, along with codes 87301, 87802 and their subsidiary codes.

Accepted addition of code 87428 for reporting multiplex viral pathogen panel using antigen immunoassay technique for SARS-CoV-2 testing along with influenza A and influenza B.

Accepted addition of codes 91300, 91301 to report Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccines and codes 0001A, 0011A, 0012A to report the immunization administration of these vaccines.

With this newest release of SARS-CoV-2-related CPT codes, along with releasing the standard code descriptor PDF, we are also releasing an easy to use Excel file of just the SARS-CoV-2-related CPT codes. The file contains the SARS-CoV-2-related CPT codes released since the 2021 data file release on August 31, 2020 and includes:

- CPT Code descriptors (long, medium, and short)
- Published date
- Effective date
- Type of change.

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Visit the COVID-19 CPT vaccine and immunization codes Page for more information and to download the files.

As new SARS-CoV-2-related CPT codes are published by the CPT Editorial Panel, the American Medical Association (AMA) will update the file.

Category I/Pathology and Laboratory

Review and download the full CPT code descriptor release.

[Coronavirus \(SARS-CoV-2\): Long descriptors \(PDF\)](#)

[Coronavirus \(SARS-CoV-2\): Medium descriptors \(PDF\)](#)

[Coronavirus \(SARS-CoV-2\): Short descriptors \(PDF\)](#)

CPT® Assistant provides guidance for new codes

CPT Assistant is providing fact sheets for coding guidance for new SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)-related testing codes.

The fact sheets include codes, descriptors and purpose, clinical examples, description of the procedures, and FAQs.

[Download the Nov. 10, 2020 CPT Assistant guide \(PDF, includes information on code 87428\)](#)

[Download the Oct. 6, 2020 CPT Assistant guide \(PDF\)](#)

[Download the Sept. 8, 2020 CPT Assistant guide \(PDF, includes information on code 99070\)](#)

[Download the Aug. 10, 2020 CPT Assistant guide \(PDF\)](#)

[Download the June 25, 2020 CPT Assistant guide \(PDF, includes information on code 87301\)](#)

[Download the May 20, 2020 CPT Assistant guide \(PDF\)](#)

[Download the April 10, 2020 CPT Assistant guide \(PDF, includes information on codes 86602, 86635\)](#)

[Download the March 13, 2020 CPT Assistant guide \(PDF, includes information on codes 87631, 87632, 87633, 0098U, 0099U, 0100U\)](#)

Coding advice and testing guides

[Quick reference flow chart for CPT reporting for COVID-19 testing \(PDF\)](#) [Coding scenarios and how to apply best coding practices \(PDF\)](#)

Related resources

[COVID-19 CPT vaccine and immunization codes](#)

[Category I vaccine codes](#)

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