

Payment and Coding Policy Alerts – **COVID-19** **UPDATE**

March 26, 2020

This is an urgent update to Providence Health Plans Payment and Coding Policy Alerts. The focus of this update is to communicate coding guidelines and policy changes during the Covid-19 crisis.

CODING INFORMATION FOR COVID-19

<p>ICD-10-CM CODES FOR COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICD-10-CM code U07.1: The World Health Organization (WHO) convened an emergency meeting to create a specific diagnosis code for the new coronavirus. A new ICD-10 code, U07.1 (2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease) has been established with an effective date of April 1, 2020. PHP will accept this diagnosis code effective April 1, 2020 for diagnosis and treatment of confirmed cases of Covid-19. • For treatment of confirmed cases of Covid-19 for dates of service prior to April 1, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised providers to code first the complication(s), such as pneumonia or acute respiratory distress, followed by code B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere). • Testing for suspected exposure to Covid-19 without symptoms and without confirmed diagnosis may be billed with ICD-10-CM code Z20.828 and the appropriate HCPCS or CPT code for testing depending on the type of test utilized (see below).
<p>CPT AND HCPCS CODES FOR TESTING</p>	<p>The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed two Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for providers and laboratories to report testing patients for coronavirus. These codes will allow those labs conducting the tests to bill for the specific test instead of using an unspecified code, which means better tracking of the public health response to the outbreak.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCPCS code U0001: Providers who test for coronavirus using the CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel may bill for that test using HCPCS code U0001. PHP’s claims processing system will be able to accept this code on April 1, 2020 for dates of service on or after February 4, 2020 for all lines of business. • HCPCS code U0002: CMS developed HCPCS code U0002 for laboratories to use to report non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19). PHP’s claims processing systems will be able to accept this code on April 1, 2020, for dates of service on or after February 4, 2020 for all lines of business. <p>On March 13, 2020, the American Medical Association’s (AMA’s) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) editorial panel convened a special meeting and released a CPT code for testing for coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) effective March 13, 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPT code 87635 is used 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.” PHP’s claims processing system will be able to accept this new CPT code for Commercial lines of business only on April 1, 2020 for dates of service on or after March 13, 2020. <p>Until Medicare adopts the new CPT code, providers should continue to use HCPCS code U0001 or U0002, depending on the type of test utilized, for Medicare and OHP lines of business. These codes may also be used for Commercial lines of business. Providers may use 87635, U0001, or U0002 for Commercial lines of business. Only <u>one</u> of the test codes may be used. Code 87635 may be used for either the CDC test or the non-CDC test.</p>

TEMPORARY REVISION TO PAYMENT POLICIES FOR COVID-19 CRISIS

<p>MARCH 26 UPDATES to Payment Policy 67.0 (Telehealth Services During Covid-19 Crisis)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective March 6, 2020 through June 30, 2020, or until further notice, telehealth services listed on Payment Policy 67.0 will not require an originating site. For the duration of this emergency provision, codes listed on this policy may be paid for services performed by two-way video connections where the patient is calling from a personal device. No contract amendment or attestation is required. This is an emergency provision subject to cancellation at the sole discretion of Providence Health Plans. • Services covered by Payment Policy 67.0 have been updated to include initial nursing facility care services (CPT codes 99304-99306) and a limited number of physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy services. See the policy for a list of codes. • Effective March 30, 2020, through April 30, 2020, PHP will allow telehealth services with a site of service payment differential to be billed with location code 11 (office) and modifier GT. Qualifying services are listed on Addendum A of the policy. Codes on Addendum A that are billed with location code 11 and modifier GT will be paid at the non-facility payment rate. Modifier GT is <u>required</u> for services billed with location 11. • Telehealth services performed prior to March 30, 2020, and telehealth services billed after March 30, 2020 that are not listed on Addendum A of the policy should be billed with location code 02. Modifiers GT and 95 may be used <u>but are not required</u> for codes billed with location code 02. <p>The updated policy has been posted on ProvLink under the title “Telehealth Services During Covid-19 Crisis.” Services covered by this policy are listed on pages 3 and 4 of the policy. Services that may be billed with location 11 and modifier GT for dates of service between March 30, 2020, and April 30, 2020, are listed on Addendum A of the policy.</p>
<p>Payment Policy 07.0 (Global Payment for Obstetrical Care)</p>	<p>Effective March 6, 2020 through June 30, 2020, or until further notice, telephone visits (Payment Policy 92.0) and/or two-way video visits (Payment Policy 67.0) may be used in lieu of face-to-face services for billing global obstetrical care codes. This is an emergency provision subject to cancellation at the sole discretion of Providence Health Plans. For the duration of this emergency provision, services performed by telephone and/or two-way video visits that meet all other requirements on Payment Policy 07.0 will be allowed as part of the global OB payment. No contract amendment or attestation is required. The updated policy has been posted on ProvLink under the title, “Global Payment for Obstetrical Care During Covid-19 Crisis.”</p>
<p>Payment Policy 92.0 (Telephone Services)</p>	<p>Effective March 6, 2020, through June 30, 2020, or until further notice, Payment Policy 92.0 (Telephone Services) has been updated to show that telephone services may be reported for both new and established patients. In addition, the policy has been temporarily expanded to include CPT codes 98966-98968, which may be reported by qualified non-physician practitioners who are credentialed with PHP and who are billing PHP directly. This is an emergency provision subject to cancellation at the sole discretion of Providence Health Plans. This policy has been posted on ProvLink under the title, “Telephone Services for Covid-19 Crisis.”</p>