

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

April 2, 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 AND POLICY UPDATES FOR COVID-19 CRISIS APRIL 2, 2020

<p><b>HCPCS CODES FOR OBTAINING SPECIMENS FOR COVID-19 TESTING</b></p>	<p>CMS released two new HCPCS codes to report specimen collection for COVID-19 testing. These may be used by providers who obtain the specimen but don't bill for performing the test. For example, HCPCS code G2023 is appropriate for use by a drive-through testing center where the specimen is collected and sent to a different provider for testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G2023: Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source</li> <li>G2024: Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a skilled nursing facility or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency, any specimen source</li> </ul> <p>HCPCS codes G2023 and G2024 were published by CMS on March 31, 2020 with an effective date retroactive to March 1, 2020. PHP will accept these codes for claims with dates of service on or after March 1, 2020.</p>
<p><b>APRIL 2 UPDATES TO PAYMENT POLICY 67.0 (TELEHEALTH SERVICES)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PHP added 85 codes to the list of services that may be performed as telehealth services. For dates of service on or after March 1, 2020, and until further notice, PHP will allow services listed on Appendix B of Payment Policy 67.0 to be performed as telehealth services. When billing professional claims for services on Appendix B, providers may use the same Place of Service (POS) that would be used for a face-to-face service, with the addition of modifier 95 to indicate that the service was actually performed via telehealth. <b>NOTE:</b> These 85 additional codes may be used for dates of service on or after March 1, 2020, but it may take a few weeks for PHP to be able to process claims for these codes when reported with modifier 95. Be assured that any claims for these services that are denied will be reprocessed and paid once the system configuration is complete.</li> <li>PHP also added clarification to Payment Policy 67.0 to show that only services performed by two-way video connections are covered by this policy. For telephone visits, providers are referred to Payment Policy 92.0 (Telephone Visits During COVID-9 Crisis). For online digital E&amp;M services, providers are referred to Payment Policy 53.0 (Online Digital Evaluation and Management Services).</li> </ul>
<p><b>ICD-10-CM CODES FOR COVID-19</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICD-10-CM code <b>U07.1</b>: 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. <b>PHP will accept this diagnosis code effective April 1, 2020</b> for diagnosis and treatment of confirmed cases of COVID-19.</li> <li>For treatment of confirmed cases of COVID-19 for dates of service <b>prior to April 1, 2020</b>, 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 <b>B97.29</b> (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere).</li> <li>Testing for suspected exposure to COVID-19 without symptoms and without confirmed diagnosis may be billed with ICD-10-CM code <b>Z20.828</b> and the appropriate HCPCS or CPT code for testing depending on the type of test utilized (see below).</li> </ul>

<p><b>CPT AND HCPCS CODES FOR COVID-19 TESTING</b></p>	<p>The Centers for Medicare &amp; 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"> <li>• HCPCS code <b>U0001</b>: 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.</li> <li>• HCPCS code <b>U0002</b>: CMS developed HCPCS code U0002 for laboratories to use to report <b>non-CDC laboratory tests</b> 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.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• CPT code <b>87635</b> 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 <b>Commercial lines of business only</b> on April 1, 2020 for dates of service on or after March 13, 2020.</li> </ul> <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>
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