

# Report on Medicare Compliance Volume 29, Number 17. May 04, 2020

## Seven Codes for COVID-19 Lab Tests

By Nina Youngstrom

In an *MLN Matters* article (SE20011),<sup>[1]</sup> CMS listed three CPT and HCPCS codes for COVID-19 testing that trigger the use of the CS modifier, but there are now seven COVID-19 tests,<sup>[2]</sup> said Chris Anusbigian, a specialist senior manager with Deloitte & Touche in Detroit. “I’m not sure if CMS has updated its edits,” she said. Hospitals are holding their claims pending clarification. The newer codes are HCPCS codes U0003 and U0004 and CPT codes 86328 and 86769. Contact her at [canusbigian@deloitte.com](mailto:canusbigian@deloitte.com).

### Coding & Billing – COVID-19 Testing

Providers billing for COVID-19 testing should use the following HCPCS/CPT codes and guidelines (as of 4/16/2020).

Code	Description	Effective Date
U0001	CDC 2019 novel coronavirus (2019 ncov) real time rt pcr diagnostic panel	4/1/2020 <sup>i</sup>
U0002	Non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19)	4/1/2020 <sup>i</sup>
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	3/13/2020
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 as described by CMS-2020-01-R.	3/18/2020
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 as described by CMS-2020-01-R	3/18/2020

86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	4/10/2020
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) (multistep method)	4/10/2020

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Providers should work with their commercial payers to determine the appropriate coding requirements.
- Providers should add above codes to their chargemaster, update associated clinical systems, and monitor revenue and usage of these services as well as associated reimbursement.

### Sources:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/03052020-medicare-covid-19-fact-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/03092020-covid-19-faqs-508.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mac-covid-19-test-pricing.pdf>

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-03/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus.pdf>

[https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2020-03-31-mlnc-se#\\_Toc36550824](https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2020-03-31-mlnc-se#_Toc36550824)

<https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-announces-expedited-updates-cpt-covid-19-antibody-tests>

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-2020-01-r.pdf>

### Endnotes

<sup>i</sup> HCPCS codes are effective as of 4/1/2020 but can be retroactively billed for services beginning on 2/4/2020.

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