

Report on Medicare Compliance Volume 29, Number 27. July 27, 2020

So Many Lab Codes, So Many Dates: Keeping Up With COVID-19

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CMS added new codes in its July 2020 update of the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), according to an updated revised *MLN Matters* (MM11814 Revised).^[1]

Total Units Billed (Admin + Wasted) Analysis - Exceed Vial Size

Since February 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has recognized several COVID-19 laboratory tests and related services. The codes are listed in Table 1 along with their OPPS status indicators (SI). The codes, along with their short descriptors and status indicators, are also listed in the July 2020 OPPS Addendum B that is posted on the CMS website. For information on the OPPS status indicator definitions, refer to OPPS Addendum D1 of the Calendar Year (CY) 2020 OPPS/Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) final rule.

HCPCS Code	Long Descriptor	Add Date	OPPS SI	OPPS APC
U0001	CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel	02/04/2020	A	N/A
U0002	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC	02/04/2020	A	N/A
C9803	Hospital outpatient clinic visit specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov-2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19]), any specimen source	03/01/2020	Q1	5731
G2023	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source	03/01/2020	B	N/A
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	03/01/2020	B	N/A

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	03/13/2020	A	N/A
86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody, qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	04/10/2020	A	N/A
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	04/10/2020	A	N/A
*87426	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID19])	06/25/2020	A	N/A
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	04/14/2020	A	N/A
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	04/14/2020	A	N/A
0202U	Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected	5/20/2020	A	N/A
*0223U	Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected	06/25/2020	A	N/A
*0224U	Antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), includes titer(s), when performed	06/25/2020	A	N/A

0014M	Liver disease, analysis of 3 biomarkers (hyaluronic acid [ha], procollagen iii amino terminal peptide [piinp], tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase 1 [timp1]), using immunoassays, utilizing serum, prognostic algorithm reported as a risk score and risk of liver fibrosis and liver-related clinical events within 5 years	04/01/2020	Q4	N/A
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Table 1. — COVID-19 Laboratory Tests and Services and Other Laboratory Tests Codes

***CPT codes 87426, 0202U, 0223U and 0224U were not included in the July I/OCE update but are still active codes based on their effective dates.**

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