IMPORTANT NEW COVID LAB INFORMATION

NO WRITTEN LAB ORDER NEEDED FOR SOME TESTS

COVID-19: Modified Ordering Requirements for Laboratory Billing

Interim Rule:

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, CMS is relaxing billing requirements for laboratory tests (PDF) required for a COVID-19 diagnosis. Any health care professional authorized under state law may order tests. **Medicare will pay for tests without a written order from the treating physician or other practitioner:**

If an order is not written, an ordering or referring National Provider Identifier (NPI) is not required on the claim

If an order is written, include the NPI of the ordering or referring professional, consistent with current billing guidelines

The Interim Final Rule can be found here.
https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-09608.pdf

In part, it states this:

> *Given the critical importance of expanding COVID-19 testing to combat the pandemic and the heightened risk that the disease presents to Medicare beneficiaries, we are amending our regulation at § 410.32(a) to remove the requirement that certain diagnostic tests are covered only based on the order of a treating physician or NPP. Under this interim policy, during the COVID19 PHE, COVID-19 tests may be covered when ordered by any healthcare professional authorized to do so under state law. Additionally, because the symptoms for influenza and COVID-19 might present in the same way, during the COVID-19 PHE, we are also removing the same ordering requirements for a diagnostic laboratory test for influenza virus and respiratory syncytial virus, a type of common respiratory virus. CMS will make a list of diagnostic laboratory tests for which we are removing the ordering requirements publicly available.*

A List of the test which do NOT required a written order can be found here:
https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-ifc-2-flu-rsv-codes.pdf

Use the link above to view all tests and all codes. Examples of test on the list include:

COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests for which Medicare Does Not Require a Practitioner Order During the PHE

Updated April 30, 2020

CPT/HCPCS Code	Laboratory Code Long Descriptor	Code Category
COVID-19 Related Codes		
U0001	CDC 2019-nCoV Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel	COVID-19
U0002	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC)	COVID-19
U0003	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), 2 amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R	COVID-19
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	COVID-19
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	COVID-19
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	COVID-19
86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	COVID-19
Influenza/RSV Related Codes		
87275	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; influenza B virus	Influenza/RSV
87276	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; influenza A virus	Influenza/RSV
87279	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; Parainfluenza virus, each type	Influenza/RSV

CLIA WAIVED Point of Care Testing for COVID and QW Modifier

MLN 11765 : https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mm11765.pdf

This article informs you about the addition of the QW modifier to HCPCS code U0002 (2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC) and 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]. Medicare will permit the use of codes U0002QW and 87635QW for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after March 20, 2020. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Three Test Kits Appear on the Waived List:

“W” denotes that the kit is approved for clinics with Waived Certificates. All approved kits and equipment including those only approved for H-complex labs and M-moderately complex labs can be found at: https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations#covid19ivd

Test Kit Manufacturers and Commercial Laboratories Table:

Search: Show 100 entries

Date EUA Issued	Manufacturer	Diagnostic (Letter of Authorization)	Technology	Authorized Setting(s)[1]	Authorization Documents[2]	Other Documents/
03/20/2020	Cepheid	Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test	Molecular	H, M, W	HCP, Patients, IFU for Labs, IFU for Point-of-Care	Letter Granting EUA Amendment(s) (April 28, 2020)
03/27/2020	Abbott Diagnostics Scarborough, Inc.	ID NOW COVID-19	Molecular	H, M, W	HCP, Patients, IFU	Letter Granting EUA Amendment(s) (April 21, 2020)
03/23/2020	Mesa Biotech Inc.	Accula SARS-Cov-2 Test	Molecular	H, M, W	HCP, Patients, IFU	Letter Granting EUA Amendment(s) (April 30, 2020)