

COVID-19 Testing Update

May 12, 2020

In April 2020, the federal government's Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) partnered with UnitedHealth Group to administer the COVID-19 Uninsured Program. Through their collaboration, specific coding and billing guidance was published for COVID-19 testing claims eligible for reimbursement under this program. In addition to requiring a valid test order from a healthcare provider, medical necessity is an ongoing requirement of coverage. A narrow selection of covered diagnosis codes was provided. Please note that these codes must appear as the **primary** diagnosis codes in order for claims to be paid.

Acceptable COVID-19 testing diagnosis codes:

DIAGNOSIS CODE	DESCRIPTION
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For dates of service *prior* to April 1, 2020:

B97.29 Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

For dates of service *on or after* April 1, 2020:

Z03.818 Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out (possible exposure to COVID-19)

Z20.828 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable (confirmed exposure to COVID-19)

Z11.59 Encounter for screening for other viral diseases (asymptomatic)

The diagnostic and antibody testing codes covered are:

CPT CODE	DESCRIPTION
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86318 Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody, qualitative or semi-quantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip)

86328 Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semi-quantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

86769 Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

For further information, please consult the HRSA COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement web site at: <https://coviduninsuredclaim.linkhealth.com/billing-codes.html>

If you have any questions, please contact our Client Services Department.

— Thank you for choosing Clinical Labs of Hawaii.