



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Laboratory Transmittal No. 71

May 1, 2020

To: Laboratories

From: Jill Spector, Director *Jill Spector*
Medical Benefits Management

Re: COVID-19 Reimbursable Laboratory Codes

Note: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this memorandum.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have announced new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for healthcare providers and laboratories to use when testing patients for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Additionally, the American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Editorial Panel has also created codes for COVID-19 laboratory tests. In response, the Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) program is reimbursing for these codes at 100% of the Medicare rate.

Below is a summary of the codes, their descriptions, their effective dates, and the FFS reimbursement rate.

Code	Effective Date	CPT or HCPCS	Description	FFS Rate
U0001	2/4/20	HCPCS	CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel	\$35.92
U0002	2/4/20	HCPCS	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC	\$51.33
87635	3/16/20	CPT	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	\$51.33

U0003	4/14/20	HCPCS	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	\$100.00
U0004	4/14/20	HCPCS	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	\$100.00

When billing for HCPCS codes U0003 and U0004, please note the following:

- 1) U0003 should identify tests performed with high throughput technologies that would otherwise be billed using CPT code 87635.
- 2) U0004 should identify tests performed with high throughput technologies that would otherwise be billed using U0002.
- 3) Neither U0003 nor U0004 should be billed for tests that detect COVID-19 antibodies.

Payment for Specimen Collection for Purposes of COVID-19 Testing

In addition to the codes above, CMS has created two HCPCS codes for COVID-19 specimen collection to provide reimbursement to independent laboratories for specimen collection from beneficiaries who are homebound or inpatient, but not in a hospital setting, under certain circumstances.

Independent laboratories can bill FFS for the specimen collection fee. The specimen collection fee applies if the specimen is collected by trained laboratory personnel from a homebound individual or non-hospital inpatient. Excluded are specimens that only require the services of a messenger to pick up the specimen or when a patient collects his or her own specimen.

Effective Date	HCPCS Code	Description	FFS Rate
3/1/20	G2023	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source	\$23.46
3/1/20	G2024	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a SNF or	\$25.46

		by a laboratory on behalf of a HHA, any specimen source	
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If you have any questions, please contact Tenesha Lynch at (410)767-3074 or tenesha.lynch@maryland.gov.