

PDL Update: COVID-19 Billing Tip Sheet



February 11, 2021

January 1, 2021, CODE Changes: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics (CDC/NCHS) implemented additional ICD-10 codes for COVID-19 (*published in CMS ICD-10-CD Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting effective October 1, 2020*). A new code **Z20.822** is available for COVID-19 testing. This replaces Z20.828 effective January 1, 2021. A summary is provided below for quick reference:

INSURED PATIENT	ICD-10	ICD-10 DESCRIPTION
Exposure to COVID-19/COVID-19 testing For <i>asymptomatic individuals</i> with actual or suspected exposure to COVID-19	Z20.822	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19
Exposure to COVID-19/COVID-19 testing For <i>symptomatic individuals</i> with actual or suspected exposure to COVID-19 and the infection has been ruled out, or test results are inconclusive or unknown	Z20.822	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19
Pre-operative testing COVID-19 screening	Z01.812 (list first) & Z20.822	Patient encounter for pre-procedural laboratory examination (list first)
		Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19
Travel COVID-19 testing	No ICD-10 coding is available for this scenario	
Encounter for antibody testing	Z01.84	Encounter for antibody response examination for an encounter for antibody testing that is not being performed to confirm a current COVID-19 infection, nor is a follow-up test after resolution
UNINSURED PATIENT	ICD-10	ICD-10 DESCRIPTION
For the Health Resources & Service Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 Uninsured Program, claims for diagnostic testing will be eligible for reimbursement, regardless of the result, if one of the following diagnoses codes is included in any position on the claim.	Z03.818	Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out (possible exposure to COVID-19)
	Z11.59	Encounter for screening for other viral diseases (asymptomatic)
	Z20.828	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable (confirmed exposure to COVID-19)
	Z11.52	Encounter for screening for COVID-19 (asymptomatic)
	Z20.822	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19
	Z86.16	Personal history of COVID-19

PATIENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please include the following information on the test order: *patient first and last names, date of service, date of birth, gender, patient address, and for the HRSA program include SSN and state of residence; if not available, enter state identification or Driver’s License (this is needed to verify patient eligibility).*

KEY RESOURCES/WEBSITES:

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines are on the following website: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/icd-10/2021-icd-10-cm>

AHA FAQ are on the following website:

<https://www.codingclinicadvisor.com/faqs-icd-10-cm-coding-covid-19> (Questions 38 & 39 COVID-19 testing)

HRSA FAQ are on the following website: <https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim/frequently-asked-questions>

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT 1-805-879-8100

Note: This information is being provided as a quick reference only. Coding and overall assignment of patient’s diagnosis is the responsibility of the provider. As changes with COVID-19 occur frequently, it is recommended that codes are verified against official publications.