

# KZAlert – New CPT® Codes for COVID-19 Testing

The American Medical Association (AMA) announced updates to the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) that include code additions for COVID-19 testing.

A new code (87635) was effective 3/13/20 and the most recent codes were approved April 10, 2020. The new CPT codes and descriptors are:

NEW CODES EFFECTIVE 4/10/20 – BLOOD/SERUM SPECIMEN		
CPT Code	CPT Descriptor	KZA's Comments
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])	-Involves using blood or serum on a reagent strip cartridge coated with anti-human monoclonal IgM and IgG antibodies and goat anti-mouse IgG antibodies -This is a <b>single step test</b> that can be done <b>at the point of care</b> -Report once per reagent strip assay (do not report one code for each Ig test)
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	Plasma or serum is diluted in buffer and an aliquot of the diluted sample and controls in duplicate are added to a multi-well plate, incubated and washed
NEW CODE EFFECTIVE 3/13/20 – RESPIRATORY SPECIMEN		
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	Use for a respiratory specimen such as nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage, and nasopharyngeal wash or aspirate or nasal aspirate
NEW CODE EFFECTIVE 2/4/20 – RESPIRATORY SPECIMEN		
U0001	CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel	Use to bill Medicare for CDC testing for SARS-CoV-2.
U0002	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC	Use to bill Medicare for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19).

For more information about CPT 87635, go to: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-03/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus.pdf>

For more information about CPT 86328 and 86769, go to: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus-april-2020.pdf>