

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. The new CPT codes and descriptors are:

| NEW CODE EFFECTIVE 9/15/20 – RESPIRATORY SPECIMEN | | |
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| CPT Code | CPT Descriptor | KZA's Comments |
| 86413 | Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) antibody, quantitative | -Involves a blood specimen where the patient's serum is incubated and washed. Diluent is added to a SARS-CoV-1 spike protein receptor binding domain (RBD) – complexed solid-phase surface, then Antihuman-signal antibodies to detect any anti-RBD antibodies. This is reported as a quantitative measurement. |
| NEW CODE EFFECTIVE 6/25/20 – RESPIRATORY SPECIMEN | | |
| 87426 | Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) | -Involves a respiratory specimen such as nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab placed in a reagent tube to disrupt and release viral nucleoprotein antigen, then an aliquot of the sample is transferred to the test cassette -This is a multi-step test that can be done at the point of care |
| NEW CODES EFFECTIVE 8/10/20 – BLOOD/SERUM SPECIMEN | | |
| 86408 | Neutralizing antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]); screen | Serum, diluent, and SARS-CoV-2 spike protein are combined with cultured cells. After an incubation period, substrate is added. If a viral infection is present, the signal is measured on a multi-well plate reader and the specimen compared to the control specimen. A qualitative result is generated. |
| 86409 | Neutralizing antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]); titer | Serum, diluent, and SARS-CoV-2 spike protein are combined with cultured cells. After an incubation period, substrate is added. The reaction is measured using quantitative or semi-quantitative assessment. The results are compared to the control specimen, interpreted, and reported. |

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| NEW CODES EF NEW CODES EFFECTIVE 4/10/20 – BLOOD/SERUM SPECIMEN | | |
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| 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 single step test that can be done at the point of care -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>

For more information about CPT 87426, go to: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-06/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus-june-2020.pdf>