

General Circular pursuant to the Health Insurance Law (No 11 of 2013) of the Emirate of Dubai

General Circular Number 10 of 2020 (GC 10/2020)

Subject of this General Circular	Medical Coding for COVID-19
Applicability of this General Circular	This Circular applies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All service providers (Dubai and NE) enrolled with eClaimLink All HIPs (Insurers and TPAs)
Purpose of this General Circular	To provide guidance for coding COVID-19
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Publication date	21/4/2020
This document replaces	Not applicable
This document has been replaced by	Not applicable
Effective date of this General Circular	Immediately upon publication
Grace period for compliance	None

Background

The novel coronavirus - COVID-19 disease outbreak has been declared a public health pandemic of international concern. As a result of the urgent need to capture the reporting of the disease, CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), AMA (American Medical Association) and CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) have made an off-cycle update to their code sets.

Objectives of this General Circular:

New Codes:

With immediate effect, please use the following new codes for reporting COVID-19 cases:

ICD-10-CM code

Code	Description
U07.1	COVID-19

CPT code

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

HCPCS code

Code	Description
U0001	CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel

U0002	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets)
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Updated Code:

CPT code

Code	Description
86318	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip);

ICD-10-CM Reporting Guidelines:

- To report confirmed cases, assign code U07.1 "COVID-19" then followed by the specific respiratory condition (e.g. pneumonia, acute bronchitis or unspecified acute lower respiratory infection etc.). Only assign signs and symptoms codes where a definitive diagnosis has not be established.
- To report suspected cases, assign Z20.828 "Contact with and exposure to other viral communicable diseases".
- To report negative cases, assign Z03.818 "Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out".
- To report screening for asymptomatic cases, assign Z11.59 "Encounter for screening for other viral diseases".
- To report asymptomatic cases with positive test result, assign U07.1 "COVID-19".
- To report infection during pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium, assign O98.5x, Other viral diseases complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium then followed by U07.1 "COVID-19".

CPT and HCPCS Reporting Guidelines:

- For infectious agent detection by nucleic, assign 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"
- For antibody detection, assign 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])" or 86769 "Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])" for multiple steps.
- For other specified methods, assign U0002 "2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets)".

LOINC Reporting Guidelines

- Please refer to LOINC's website at <https://loinc.org/sars-coronavirus-2> for further information.

For any further enquiries, please direct your emails to DHIC-DRGProject@dha.gov.ae