

NEWS ALERT

Coding & Reimbursement Updates

Updated March 18, 2020

Samaritan Health Plans recognizes that our providers may have questions regarding COVID-19, including treatment protocols, plan updates and reimbursement requirements. We are here to support providers with updated information as it becomes available.

Cost Share

When the purpose of the visit is to test for COVID-19, no cost-share will be applied for:

- In-network and out-of-network office visits
- In-network and out-of-network urgent care
- Emergency room visits
- Immunizations for COVID-19 (once available)
- Remember, under state law, consumers can utilize out-of-network emergency rooms for care as well

Diagnosis Codes

When billing for COVID-19 related claims, follow established coding guidelines, including those being provided by CMS and CDC. The CDC has provided interim coding guidance on which ICD-10 diagnosis codes to report until new codes become effective October 1, 2020.

The following ICD-10 and HCPCS diagnostic codes can be used when submitting for reimbursement related to COVID-19 visits:

Exposure to COVID-19

Z03.818 Concern about a possible exposure to COVID-19, but ruled out after evaluation. Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out.

Z20.828 Exposure to someone confirmed to have COVID-19. Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases.

Signs & Symptoms

R05 Cough

R06.02 Shortness of breath

R50.9 Fever, unspecified

Please review the [interim code guidelines](#) for a complete list of CDC coding guidelines.

Lab Testing Codes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has created the following CPT/HCPCS codes for laboratory testing related to COVID-19:

HCPCS U0001 Laboratory tests developed by the CDC

HCPCS U0002 Laboratory tests developed by entities other than the CDC

CPT 87635 (effective 3/13/2020) Lab testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus2

Telemedicine

Telemedicine is a covered benefit and reduces the risk related to exposure. For our IHN-CCO line of business, refer to the updated [OHA guidelines for Telemedicine Services](#). For all other lines of business, guidance on telemedicine is provided on the CMS [Medicare Telemedicine Healthcare Provider Fact Sheet](#).

We encourage you to share this information with your providers and coders to ensure they are kept current on billing and reimbursement requirements for COVID-19 cases.

Disclaimer: All information and guidance subject to change based on Federal and Oregon Health Authority guidance. Continue to monitor [Providers.samhealthplans.org](https://providers.samhealthplans.org) for updated information.

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