

COVID-19 billing summary

Billing details

As outlined in federal legislation specific to COVID-19 diagnostic testing, it is expected that there will not be any patient cost share associated with diagnostic coronavirus lab testing you order for your patients.

- You should continue to provide all relevant patient information on test requisitions
 - This information should include patient health insurance or Medicaid/Medicare coverage, if applicable
 - Complete and accurate requisitions ensure proper billing
- For uninsured patients, select either “Patient bill” or “Uninsured COVID-19 (UNICV)” under the insurance option
 - At this time, Quest will bill the HRSA Federal Uninsured Program for reimbursement of COVID-19 testing, not the patient
- As always, diagnosis codes are required for your order and are necessary for proper billing of lab tests to health insurers
 - The CDC has issued “ICD-10 Coding and Reporting Guidelines” for COVID19 testing. A summary is provided below

CDC ICD-10 Coding and Reporting Guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published “ICD-10-CM Official Coding and Reporting Guidelines April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020” on its website in an effort to provide guidance related to the coding of coronavirus Infections. A high-level summary of the guidelines is provided below. For full information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/COVID-19-guidelines-final.pdf>

Infections due to SARS-CoV-2 (these codes could apply to symptomatic patients for whom molecular testing would be used to diagnose active infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus):

- Code only confirmed cases, using code U07.1, COVID-19 when COVID-19 meets the definition of the principle diagnosis
 - In this context, “confirmation” does not require documentation of the type of test performed; the provider’s documentation that the individual has COVID-19 is sufficient
 - Presumptive positive results should be coded as CONFIRMED. A presumptive positive test result means an individual has tested positive for the virus at a local or state level but has not yet been confirmed by the CDC
 - Associated manifestations, except in the case of obstetrics patients for COVID-19 in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, should be used following the principle diagnosis code of U07.1, COVID-19

Symptomatic individuals with confirmed COVID-19 infection (use primary diagnosis code U07.1, COVID-19 followed by the appropriate codes for associated manifestations):

COVID-19–associated manifestations	Secondary code	Diagnoses
Pneumonia	J12.89	Other viral pneumonia
Acute bronchitis	J20.8	Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms
Bronchitis otherwise not specified (NOS)	J40	Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic
Lower respiratory infection (NOS), or acute respiratory infection (NOS)	J22	Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
Respiratory infection (NOS)	J98.8	Other specified respiratory disorders
Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)	J80	Acute respiratory distress syndrome



COVID-19 billing summary (continued)

- If provider documents notate that COVID-19 is “suspected”, “possible”, “probable”, or “inconclusive”, do NOT assign U07.1 and instead utilize Z20.828 (contact with and [suspected] exposure to other viral communicable diseases)

Patients with possible exposure to COVID-19:

Scenario	Primary diagnosis code	Primary diagnosis code description
Individual concerned about possible exposure to COVID-19, but this is ruled out after evaluation	Z03.818	Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out
Individual exposed to someone who is confirmed or suspected (not ruled out) to have COVID-19, and exposed individual either tests negative or the test results are unknown	Z20.828	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases

Individuals with signs and symptoms, without definitive diagnosis of COVID-19:

Scenario	Primary diagnosis code	Primary diagnosis code description
Patients with signs/symptoms associated with COVID-19 but where a definitive diagnosis has not been established	R05	Cough
	R06.02	Shortness of breath
	R50.9	Fever, unspecified
Patients with signs/symptoms associated with COVID-19 with actual or suspected contact with or exposure to someone who has COVID-19	Z20.828	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases

COVID-19 infection in pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium:

Scenario	Primary diagnosis code	Primary diagnosis code description	Secondary diagnosis code	Secondary diagnosis code description	Associated manifestations
Pregnancy, childbirth, or the puerperium patient admitted (or presenting for a healthcare encounter) because of COVID-19	O98.5-	Other viral diseases complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	U07.1	COVID-19	Add appropriate codes for associated manifestations

Screening for COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals:

Scenario	Primary diagnosis code	Primary diagnosis code description
Asymptomatic individuals with no known exposure to the virus, and test results are either unknown or negative	Z11.59	Encounter for screening for other viral diseases
Asymptomatic individuals with no known exposure to the virus, and test results are positive	U07.1	Encounter for screening for other viral diseases

Note: ICD-10 codes are based on CDC guidelines and are for informational purposes only. Coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party. Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payer being billed and refer to the CDC website for complete details regarding the guidelines for COVID-19 at [need URL from client]