

**Lab Testing for COVID-19
UPDATED August 24, 2020**

In accordance with the guidelines published by the Maryland Insurance Administration (<https://insurance.maryland.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>) and the Maryland Department of Health (<https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/Pages/home.aspx>), MedStar Family Choice will reimburse for COVID-19 when the services are billed with the following procedure codes:

HCPCS Code- Eff 2/4/20	Description
U0001	Reimbursement for using the CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel
U0002	Reimbursement for the 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV testing using any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets)

CPT Code- Eff 3/16/20	Description
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

CPT Code- Eff 4/10/20	Description
86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (e.g., 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])

HCPCS Code- Eff 4/14/20	Description
U0003	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, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R
U0004	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R



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CPT Code- Eff 6/25/20	Description
87426	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g, SARS-CoV, SARSCoV-2 [COVID-19])
0223U	Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected
0224U	Antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), includes titer(s), when performed (Do not report 0224U in conjunction with 86769)

MedStar Family Choice will continue to closely monitor all communications from MDH. We will communicate with our provider community as quickly as possible to any changes that may impact what has been outlined in this provider alert. If you have any questions, please call **800-905-1722, option 5**. You may also email us questions at MFC-ProviderRelations2@medstar.net.



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Laboratory Transmittal No. 74
August 21, 2020

To: Laboratories

From: Jill Spector, Director
 Medical Benefits Management *Jill Spector*

Re: UPDATE - COVID-19 Reimbursable Laboratory Codes

Note: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this memorandum.

Note: This is an update to Laboratory Transmittal No. 72, which was issued on May 22, 2020. This transmittal adds three new reimbursable laboratory codes for COVID-19 testing with an effective date of June 25, 2020.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have announced new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for healthcare providers and laboratories to use when testing patients for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Additionally, the American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Editorial Panel has also created codes for COVID-19 laboratory tests. In response, the Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) program is reimbursing for these codes at 100% of the Medicare rate. Below is a summary of the codes, their descriptions, their effective dates, and the FFS reimbursement rate.

Code	Effective Date	CPT or HCPCS	Description	FFS Rate
U0001	2/4/20	HCPCS	CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel	\$35.92
U0002	2/4/20	HCPCS	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC	\$51.33
87635	3/16/20	CPT	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	\$51.33

86328	4/10/20	CPT	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	\$45.23
86769	4/10/20	CPT	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	\$42.13
U0003	4/14/20	HCPCS	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, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R	\$100.00
U0004	4/14/20	HCPCS	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R	\$100.00
87426	6/25/20	CPT	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g, SARS-CoV, SARSCoV-2 [COVID-19])	\$45.23
0223U	6/25/20	HCPCS	Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected	\$416.78
0224U	6/25/20	HCPCS	Antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), includes titer(s), when performed (Do not report 0224U in conjunction with 86769)	\$42.13

When billing for HCPCS codes U0003 and U0004, please note the following:

- 1) U0003 should identify tests performed with high throughput technologies that would otherwise be billed using CPT code 87635.
- 2) U0004 should identify tests performed with high throughput technologies that would otherwise be billed using U0002.
- 3) Neither U0003 nor U0004 should be billed for tests that detect COVID-19 antibodies.

Payment for Specimen Collection for Purposes of COVID-19 Testing

In addition to the codes above, CMS has created two HCPCS codes for COVID-19 specimen collection to provide reimbursement to independent laboratories for specimen collection from beneficiaries who are homebound or inpatient, but not in a hospital setting, under certain circumstances.

Independent laboratories can bill FFS for the specimen collection fee. The specimen collection fee applies if the specimen is collected by trained laboratory personnel from a homebound individual or non-hospital inpatient. Excluded are specimens that only require the services of a messenger to pick up the specimen or when a patient collects his or her own specimen.

Effective Date	HCPCS Code	Description	FFS Rate
3/1/20	G2023	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source	\$23.46
3/1/20	G2024	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a SNF or by a laboratory on behalf of a HHA, any specimen source	\$25.46

If you have any questions, please contact Tenesha Lynch at (410)767-3074 or tenesha.lynch@maryland.gov.