

COVID-19: New CPT code and New HCPCS codes

A new CPT and 2 new HCPCS codes were issued for COVID-19. Until we get these codes released in the Optimum RCM Q2 CPT/HCPCS update, clients will need to manually add the codes.

Following is the information of the 3 new codes:

CPT code 87635 is new as of Friday, March 13. This code is effective immediately and will need to be manually added in Optimum with a Service Indicator of "A".

A good resource for the Descriptor information can be found [here](#).

Code	Short Code Description	Released to AMA website	Effective	Publication
87635	SARS-COV-2 COVID-19 AMP PRB	March 13, 2020	March 13, 2020	CPT 2021

The AMA has also provided a PDF of coding guidelines for this new [CPT code](#).

In addition to this new CPT code, CMS issued 2 new HCPCS codes:

U0001 is used specifically for CDC testing laboratories to test patients for SARS-CoV-2. The second HCPCS billing code (U0002) allows laboratories to bill for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19). On February 29, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a new, streamlined policy for certain laboratories to develop their own validated COVID-19 diagnostics. This second HCPCS code may be used for tests developed by these additional laboratories when submitting claims to Medicare or health insurers. CMS expects that having specific codes for these tests will encourage testing and improve tracking.

When adding these HCPCS codes in Optimum RCM, the Service Indicator should be entered as "A".

The Medicare claims processing systems will be able to accept [these codes](#) starting on April 1, 2020, for dates of service on or after February 4, 2020.

A new Diagnosis code has not been issued specifically for COVID-19; however, some guidelines for Coding were [published by the CDC and distributed by CMS](#).

Example of the addition of the new CPT Code in Optimum RCM > Hospital System Maintenance > Prospective Payment Systems > CHL Table Maintenance:

Insurance Code	****	Payer	MEDICARE
Patient Type	* - Default		
Effective Dates	01/01/2020		
CHL Payer ID	HCPC201		
CHL Code	87635		
CHL Description	SARS-COV-2 COVID-19 AMP PRB		
Code Source	C - CPT		
Service Type			
Service Indicator	A		
APC Code			0
APC Payment Rate			

This information is also available on the [Cantata Health Client Only Website](#).

If you need any support during this challenging time, please call us at (877) 532-6347.

Thank you,

Team Cantata Health

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