

Apple Health (Medicaid) COVID-19 testing clinical policy

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Care Authority is aware that usual and customary ways of providing and billing/reporting services may not be feasible. It is also understood that different providers will have different capabilities. Therefore, in the interest of public health, HCA’s Apple Health (Medicaid) program is trying to be as flexible as possible and is creating new policies that will allow you to provide medically necessary services and bill or report the encounter with the most appropriate code you determine applicable, using the guidance below.

This FAQ reinforces the agency’s current policies regarding telemedicine as defined in [WAC 182-531-1730](#) and covers the new telehealth policies that will only be in effect during this health care crisis. We will update this FAQ as necessary to respond to new information as it develops.

The FAQ below was revised after new information was released Friday, March 20, by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in an all-state call about the use of telehealth in Medicaid. Note: Medicaid is not subject to the same policies as Medicare.

Overview

The Medicaid program pays for Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) molecular, antigen and antibody testing for medically necessary diagnostic services ordered by a qualified provider.

Qualified providers are those who are eligible to bill Medicaid for reimbursement, such as health care providers, pharmacists, and dentists as listed in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 182-502 WAC.

Only tests with FDA approval or FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) are reimbursed when medically necessary in accordance with Chapter 182-530 WAC.

Providers that perform COVID-19 testing are expected to meet the [Washington State Department of Health Reporting Requirements](#) and have the appropriate credentials to perform testing.

Please see the [COVID-19 fee schedule](#) for rates. This policy applies to HCA-contracted managed care organizations

PCR Tests			
HCPCS Code	Short Description	Professional Claims	Facility Claims
U0001	2019-ncov diagnostic p	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
U0002	Covid-19 lab test non-cdc	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
U0003	Cov-19 amp prb hgh thrupt	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
U0004	Cov-19 test non-cdc hgh thru	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
CPT® Code	Short Description	Professional Claims	Facility Claims
87635	SARS-COV-2 COVID-19 AMP PRB	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR

87636	SARSCOV2 & INF A&B AMP PRB	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
87637	SARSCOV2&INF A&B&RSV AMP PRB	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
Antigen test			
87426	CORONAVIRUS AG IA	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
87811	SARS-COV-2 COVID19 W/OPTIC	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
87428	SARSCOV & INF VIR A&B AG IA	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR

Billing for specimen collection

When collecting a specimen to test for COVID-19 that is not associated with an E/M visit, HCA previously allowed CPT® code 99001 to be billed. Effective 10/1/2020, in order to align with Medicare and other payers, Apple Health will allow HCPCS code G2023, G2024, and C9803 when billing for specimen collection, which includes drive-through testing. Those procedure codes will retro back to the date listed on the COVID-19 Fee Schedule and Apple Health will accept CPT® code 99001 with a date of service before 10/15/2020 only. If you have denials for the following procedure codes, please resubmit your claim.

Please note HCPCS code G2023 and G2024 are not encounter eligible for federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health clinics (RHCs). CPT® 99211 is encounter eligible when performed by an encounter eligible provider in an eligible place of service. Outpatient hospital specimen collection, HCPCS code C9803, is not allowable in the FQHC or RHC setting.

The codes listed below are eligible for the IHS (Indian Health Services) encounter rate if rendered by a health care professional at a direct IHS clinic, tribal clinic or tribal FQHC.

Specimen collection			
HCPCS Code	Description	Professional Claims	Facility Claims
G2023	Specimen collect covid-19	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
C9803	Hopd covid-19 spec collect	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR
CPT® Code	Short Description	Professional Claims	Facility Claims
99211	Office Specimen Collection	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR

Clinical Policy: Medical Necessity Criteria for Antibody Testing for SARS-CoV-2 Policy

Antibody testing currently has clinical applicability only in specific circumstances and is not recommended for the general public on a broad scale. Per CDC Interim Guidelines for COVID-19, antibody testing should not be used to determine immune status in individuals until the presence, durability, and duration of immunity is established.

Based on this information, the Health Care Authority requires the following criteria be met for payment of COVID-19 antibody tests:

- Must be performed by a CLIA certified lab

- Must meet medical necessity criteria, specifically that the results from the antibody test will be used by a clinician to initiate or change the management of a client's care. A representative example of this occurs in cases

where a client has late complications of COVID-19 illness, such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children

Please note, this policy may be updated as new information becomes available. This policy has a retroactive date of 4/10/20. HCA may perform a post-pay review on any claim and supporting physician’s documentation to ensure compliance with this policy.

Antibody Test				
CPT® code	Short Description	Professional claims	Facility Claims	Limitation
86328	IA NFCT AB SARSCOV2 COVID19	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR	1 antibody test per calendar year, per client
86408	NEUTRLZG ANTB SARSCOV2 SCR	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR	1 antibody test per calendar year, per client
86409	NEUTRLZG ANTB SARSCOV2 TITER	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR	1 antibody test per calendar year, per client
86413	SARS-COV-2 ANTB QUANTITATIVE	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR	1 antibody test per calendar year, per client
86769	SARS-COV-2 COVID-19 ANTIBODY	Modifier CR	Modifier CR and Condition code DR	1 antibody test per calendar year, per client

Apple Health (Medicaid) is aware that there are other non-specific procedure codes that could be used to gain the same information, if those codes are billed to Apple Health (Medicaid) the same criteria listed above will be applied.

Limitations:

- Limited to 1 antibody test per calendar year per client. If additional test are needed, providers can submit a limitation extension request to HCA. Please see the [Physician related services/health care professional services billing guide](#) for information regarding limitation extension.

Fee Schedule:

- Please see HCA’s [COVID-19 fee schedule](#).