



TO

Blood Banks, Hospital Providers, Independent Labs, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses in Independent Practice, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Rural Health Clinics, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs



REGARDING

Medicaid-Enrolled Provider Requirement Temporarily Waived for Prescribing, Referring, or Ordering Certain COVID-19-Related Laboratory Codes

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ForwardHealth is temporarily altering certain policy requirements in order to prevent further spread of the disease and effectively treat existing cases. The following changes are issued in response to COVID-19 pursuant to [Interim Final Rule CMS-5531-IFC](#) determined by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

As a result, these changes are in effect with a retroactive date of March 1, 2020, through the end of the national public health emergency, including any extensions. ForwardHealth will publish additional guidance about the topics addressed in this Alert when the temporary policies related to COVID-19 expire.

Medicaid-Enrolled Provider Requirement Temporarily Waived for Prescribing, Referring, or Ordering Certain COVID-19-Related Laboratory Codes

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, certain COVID-19-related laboratory codes will **not** be limited to being prescribed, referred, or ordered by a Medicaid-enrolled provider. This temporarily waived policy is described in the [Claims for Services Prescribed, Referred, or Ordered](#) topic (#15737) of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook. The ordering provider's National Provider Identifier is still required on the claim form; therefore, any health care professional authorized under state law may order these tests within their scope of practice, regardless of Medicaid enrollment.

The effective date for this temporary change is March 1, 2020. If the effective date of a COVID-19 laboratory code was after March 1, 2020, then that code's effective date is the effective date for this change.

A table of affected laboratory codes is given below.

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION	CODE CATEGORY
U0001	CDC 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) real-time RT-PCR diagnostic panel	COVID-19
U0002	2019-nCoV coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC	COVID-19
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	COVID-19
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	COVID-19
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	COVID-19
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	COVID-19
86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	COVID-19
87275	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; influenza B virus	Influenza/RSV
87276	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; influenza A virus	Influenza/RSV
87279	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; Parainfluenza virus, each type	Influenza/RSV

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION	CODE CATEGORY
87400	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; Influenza, A or B, each	Influenza/RSV
87501	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); influenza virus, includes reverse transcription, when performed, and amplified probe technique, each type or subtype	Influenza/RSV
87502	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); influenza virus, for multiple types or subtypes, includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, first 2 types or sub-types	Influenza/RSV
87503	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); influenza virus, for multiple types or sub-types, includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, each additional influenza virus type or sub-type beyond 2	Influenza/RSV
87631	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 3-5 targets	Influenza/RSV
87632	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 6-11 targets	Influenza/RSV
87633	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 12-25 targets	Influenza/RSV

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION	CODE CATEGORY
87804	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; Influenza	Influenza/RSV
87280	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunofluorescent technique; respiratory syncytial virus	Influenza/RSV
87420	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; respiratory syncytial virus	Influenza/RSV
87634	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory syncytial virus, amplified probe technique	Influenza/RSV
87807	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; respiratory syncytial virus	Influenza/RSV