

ForwardHealth **ALERT**

Wisconsin serving you



TO

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

REGARDING

COVID-19 Laboratory Procedure Codes 87426 and 87811 Allowable With Modifier QW

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ForwardHealth will accept the following Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) procedure codes submitted with modifier QW (CLIA-waived test) from eligible providers who test Medicaid-enrolled members for COVID-19. These codes, when submitted with modifier QW, indicate the service was performed in a facility having a [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment \(CLIA\) certificate of waiver](#):

- Effective for dates of service on and after June 25, 2020: 87426 (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; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus [eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)])
- Effective for dates of service on and after October 6, 2020: 87811 (Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical [ie, visual] observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2] [Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)])

Providers should refer to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's guidance on [Emergency Use Authorizations](#) (EUAs) for COVID-19 for information about the appropriate settings in which an EUA-authorized test may be used.