
COVID-19 Temporary Payment Policy

Policy Statement

This temporary policy documents Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's (Neighborhood) coverage and reimbursement requirements for specific services related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scope

This policy applies to all lines of business, Medicaid excluding Extended Family Planning (EFP), Commercial, and INTEGRITY.

This policy applies to laboratory diagnostic testing and the related outpatient visit for COVID-19 for those members that meet the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for testing.

Claim Submission

Due to the delayed effective date of October 1, 2020 for the new ICD-10-CM code (U07.1: 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease) for COVID-19, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has developed interim coding advice in supplement to the ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines:

Claims for CONFIRMED cases related to COVID-19 should be billed with the following ICD-10-CM codes as applicable:

- **Pneumonia due to COVID-19:** J12.89 (Other viral pneumonia) and B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)
- **Acute bronchitis due to COVID-19:** J20.8 (Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms) and B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)
- **Bronchitis not otherwise specified (NOS) due to COVID-19:** J40 (Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic) and B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)
- **Lower respiratory infection NOS or acute respiratory infection NOS due to COVID-19:** J22 (Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection) and B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)
- **Respiratory infection NOS due to COVID-19:** J98.8 (Other specified respiratory disorders) and B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)
- **Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) due to COVID-19:** J80 (Acute respiratory distress syndrome) and B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)



Claims for possible exposure to COVID-19 that is ruled out after evaluation should be billed with the following ICD-10-CM code:

- Z03.818 (Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out)

Claims for exposure to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should be billed with the following ICD-10-CM code:

- Z20.828 (Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases)

Claims for members presenting with symptoms of COVID-19 but do not have an established definitive diagnosis should be billed with the following ICD-10-CM codes as applicable:

- R05 (Cough)
- R06.02 (Shortness of breath)
- R50.9 (Fever, unspecified)
- Z03.818 (Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out)
- Z20.828 (Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases)

Claims for diagnostic laboratory testing for COVID-19 must be billed with one of the following CPT codes:

- U0001- CDC testing laboratories to test for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19)
- U0002- non-CDC testing laboratories to test for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19)
- 87635 (effective 3/13/20)- 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

Billable services are subject to contractual agreements, when applicable. Providers are required to submit complete claims for payment within 90 days of the date services are provided to members.

Member Cost Share Waiver

Neighborhood will waive all member cost share for Commercial plans for laboratory diagnostic testing and the related outpatient visit for COVID-19 as outlined in this policy, during the period of heightened concerns related to COVID-19. Providers should NOT collect cost share from a member in accordance with this policy.

Coding

The following codes are covered for COVID-19 diagnosis and testing.

Procedure Code	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
U0001	SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19) CDC laboratory testing. (Final description of code to be determined.)
U0002	SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19) non-CDC laboratory testing. (Final description of code to be determined.)

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
B97.29	Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
J12.89	Other viral pneumonia
J20.8	Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms
J22	Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
J40	Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic
J80	Acute respiratory distress syndrome
J98.8	Other specified respiratory disorders
R05	Cough
R06.02	Shortness of breath
R50.9	Fever, unspecified
Z03.818	Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out
Z20.828	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases

Disclaimer

This payment policy is informational only and is not intended to address every situation related to reimbursement for healthcare services; therefore, it is not a guarantee of reimbursement.

Claim payments are subject to the following, which include but are not limited to, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island benefit coverage, member eligibility, claims payment edit rules, coding and documentation guidelines, authorization policies, provider contract agreements, and state and federal regulations. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only.

This policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by Neighborhood due to programming or other constraints; however, Neighborhood strives to minimize these variations.

Neighborhood reserves the right to amend or rescind this temporary policy.

References:

<https://www.3mhisinsideangle.com/blog-post/coding-for-covid-19/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/ICD-10-CM-Official-Coding-Gudance-Interim-Advice-coronavirus-feb-20-2020.pdf>

Document History

Date	Action
03/09/20	Policy Effective
03/17/20	Update- CPT code 87635 effective 3/13/20