

COVID-19 coding reference

The CDC has issued an ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines Supplement document to provide instruction on coding encounters related to COVID-19. There is also new guidance and official coding guidelines effective for dates of service/discharge on or after April 1, 2020.

Provider documentation must include all of the following:

1. Confirmed positive test of COVID-19
2. Links to any associated conditions
3. Identification that the infection was present on admission
4. Documented comorbidities such as respiratory failure, ARDS, COPD exacerbation, etc.

	Coding for dates of service/discharge prior to April 1, 2020	Coding for dates of service/discharge on and after April 1, 2020
New coding guidelines		
Pneumonia confirmed as due to Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J12.89 Other viral pneumonia • B97.29 Other Coronavirus as cause of diseases classified elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U07.1 COVID-19 • J12.89 Other viral pneumonia
Acute bronchitis confirmed as due to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J20.8 Acute bronchitis • B97.29 Other Coronavirus as cause of diseases classified elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U07.1 COVID-19 • J20.8 Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms
Unspecified bronchitis confirmed as due to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J40 Bronchitis not specified as acute/chronic • B97.29 Other Coronavirus as cause of diseases classified elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U07.1 COVID-19 • J40 Bronchitis not specified as acute or chronic
Acute or lower respiratory infection confirmed as due to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J22 Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection • B97.29 Other Coronavirus as cause of diseases classified elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U07.1 COVID-19 • J22 Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
Respiratory infection NOS confirmed as due to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J98.8 Other specified respiratory disorder • B97.29 Other Coronavirus as cause of diseases classified elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U07.1 COVID-19 • J98.8 Other specified respiratory disorder
ARDS confirmed as due to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J80 acute respiratory distress syndrome • B97.29 Other Coronavirus as cause of diseases classified elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U07.1 COVID-19 • J80 acute respiratory distress syndrome
Suspected/possible/probable COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not code U07.1. Use signs/symptoms or Z20.828. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not code U07.1. Use signs/symptoms or Z20.828.
Unchanged coding guidelines		
Suspected/possible/probable COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Z03.818 Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents, ruled out 	
Exposure to COVID-19 not ruled out (exposed to someone with confirmed COVID-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Z20.828 contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases 	
Signs/symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a definitive diagnosis has not been established, code only the signs and symptoms (e.g., cough) 	
Screening for asymptomatic individuals who have no known exposure to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Z11.59 Encounter for screening for other viral diseases 	

Questions? Please contact us today.

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