COVID-19 Billing and Coding Guidance
June 8, 2020

MaineCare is covering COVID-19 testing, diagnosis, and treatment services for MaineCare members and testing and diagnosis services for uninsured Maine residents. A full list of covered testing and diagnostic codes, with effective dates, can be found online. This list may be updated as codes are added or changed. Providers will be notified if there are updates.

As a reminder, under Chapter I of the MaineCare Benefits Manual, “experimental procedures or drugs not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)” are considered non-covered services and are not reimbursable by MaineCare. As such, serology tests that are not approved by the FDA are not covered by MaineCare.

Below, please find additional instructions for certain CPT, HCPC, and ICD-10 codes related to COVID-19.

CPT/HCPC References
Clinical diagnostic lab tests are used to detect SARS–CoV–2 or for the diagnosis of the virus that causes COVID-19.

- CMS developed the first HCPCS code (U0001) to bill for tests and track new cases of the virus. This code is used specifically for CDC testing laboratories to test patients for SARS-CoV-2. This is not a MaineCare covered code.

- Effective February 4, 2020, code U0002 allows laboratories to bill for non-U.S. CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19). This is a MaineCare covered code.

High Throughput Testing: CMS requires the use of the following specific MaineCare-covered codes for lab tests that use high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R:

- Effective April 14, 2020, code U0003 should be used to identify tests that had previously been identified by CPT code 87635 and were performed using high throughput technologies. Code 87635 is effective as of March 13, 2020, and it should still be used for tests that do not utilize high throughput technology.

- Effective April 14, 2020, code U0004 should be used to identify tests that had previously been identified by CPT code U0002 and were performed using high throughput technologies. U0002 should still be used for tests that do not utilize high throughput technology.
• Neither U0003 nor U0004 should be used for tests that detect COVID-19 antibodies. For more information, see the American Academy of Professional Coders’ Coding High-Throughput COVID-19 Testing.

**Specimen Collection:** Providers who currently use CPT specimen collection code 99000 can continue to do so for all collections, including COVID-19. Please note that providers who plan to bill 99000 for uninsured individuals can only use this code for dates of service beginning on March 18, 2020, when we began covering COVID-19 testing and diagnostic services for the uninsured. For more information, the American Medical Association has guidelines about the appropriate use of 99000 as well as scenarios for when 99211 can be used for specimen collection.

• **For independent labs:** We will add HCPC specimen collection codes G2023 and G2024 to MIHMS in mid-June, effective March 1, 2020, and will alert providers when the codes are available for billing. Providers should hold these claims until the codes are available.

• **For hospitals:** We will add HCPC specimen collection code C9803 to MIHMS in mid-June, effective March 1, 2020, and will alert providers when it is available. This code also needs to be added to the July APC Microdyn file, which means that the APC claims may not process this code appropriately until then. Providers do not need to hold claims, as we will reprocess affected claims once we upload the July Microdyn file.

**ICD-10 References**
To assist with documenting and tracking diagnosis codes, providers should adhere to the following CDC guidelines for coding:

Effective April 1, 2020, for patients with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, utilize the new ICD-10 code, U07.1. For dates of service prior to April 1, 2020, providers should utilize the symptom codes identified with the list of testing and diagnostic codes.

• **Pneumonia confirmed as due to COVID-19:** assign codes U07.1, COVID-19, and J12.89, other viral pneumonia.

• **Acute bronchitis confirmed as due to COVID-19:** assign codes U07.1, and J20.8, acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms.

• **Bronchitis not otherwise specified (NOS) due to COVID-19:** assign codes U07.1 and J40, bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic.

• **COVID-19-associated lower respiratory infection, not otherwise specified (NOS), or an acute respiratory infection, not otherwise specified (NOS):** assign codes U07.1 and J22, unspecified acute lower respiratory infection.
• **COVID-19-associated respiratory infection, NOS:** assign codes **U07.1** and **J98.8**, other specified respiratory disorders

• **Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) confirmed as due to COVID-19:** assign codes **U07.1**, and **J80**, acute respiratory distress syndrome.

Additional relevant codes:

• For patients with **possible COVID-19 exposure but no positive COVID-19 status**, assign code **Z03.818**, encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out.

• For patients with **actual exposure to confirmed COVID-19 carrier but no positive COVID-19 status**, report code **Z20.828**, contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases.

• For patients **presenting COVID-19 symptoms but have not yet been tested**, assign codes for each of the presenting symptoms such as: cough (**R05**); shortness of breath (**R06.02**) or fever unspecified (**R50.9**). For **asymptomatic patients** who test positive for COVID-19, assign code **U07.1**, COVID-19.

**Split Billing for Non-Covered Services**
Covered services (CPT/HCPC codes, revenue codes, and diagnosis codes) should be billed separately from any other non-covered services that are provided at the time of appointment. Current form type billing instructions are used. If you do not split bill, your Remittance Advice (RA) may show lines for non-covered services paid at zero dollars, which would require you to adjust off charges that can be billed elsewhere.

For more information about covered services related to COVID-19 for uninsured individuals, please review our associated guidance. A full list of covered codes for uninsured individuals, with effective dates, can be found online. This list may be updated as codes are added or changed. Providers will be notified if there are updates.

For more information about covered services related to COVID-19 for individuals who receive the Emergency MaineCare benefit, including testing, please review our associated guidance.

If you have any questions, please contact your Provider Relations Specialist.