



Medi-Cal Reimbursement for Clinical Laboratory Services Related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

June 19, 2020

As the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and State of California continue to closely monitor and assess the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation, DHCS is issuing an information bulletin to Medi-Cal providers regarding payment increases for COVID-19 related clinical laboratory services.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, a public health emergency was declared for the United States on January 31, 2020, and a national emergency was declared under the Stafford Act on March 13, 2020. DHCS submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to request additional flexibilities under the Social Security Act, and received federal approval of SPA 20-0024 effective retroactively to March 1, 2020. SPA 20-0024 implements temporary policies during the public health emergency and national emergency periods, and these policies will expire upon termination of either emergency period.

DHCS is expediting implementation of COVID-19 related clinical laboratory procedure codes for diagnostic testing services and specimen collection. DHCS will temporarily establish reimbursement rates at 100% of the corresponding federal Medicare rate during the emergency period and temporarily exempt COVID-19 related clinical laboratory payments from the AB 97 10% reduction. At the expiration of either emergency period, DHCS will establish the Medi-Cal rates for COVID-19 related clinical laboratory procedure codes in accordance with Welfare and Institution Code section 14105.22 and California Medicaid State Plan Attachment 4.19-B. The following page includes the list of the current COVID-19 diagnostic testing and specimen collection procedure codes and their reimbursement rates. DHCS is continually monitoring the establishment of new COVID-19 related codes and may update this list as new or equivalent codes are established.

Code	Description	Rate	Effective Date
U0001	2019-NCOV DIAGNOSTIC P	\$35.91	03/01/2020
U0002	COVID-19 LAB TEST NON-CDC	\$51.31	03/01/2020
U0003	SARS COV2 COVID-19 AMP PROB HIGH THROUGHPUT	\$100.00	03/18/2020
U0004	COVID-19 LAB TEST NON-CDC HIGH THROUGHPUT	\$100.00	03/18/2020
86328	SARS COV2 COVID-19 IA NFCT AB	\$45.23	04/10/2020
86769	SARS COV2 COVID-19 ANTIBODY	\$42.13	04/10/2020
G2023	COVID-19 SPECIMEN COLLECT	\$23.46	03/01/2020
G2024	COVID-19 SPEC COLL SNF/LAB	\$25.46	03/01/2020
87635	SARS COV2 COVID-19 AMP PRB	\$51.31	03/13/2020
C9803	SARS COV2 COVID-19 ANY SPECIMEN	\$22.99	03/01/2020