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The CVS Health Enterprise Response and Resiliency and Infectious Disease Response teams are actively monitoring the rapidly evolving international coronavirus outbreak, including guidance from trusted sources of clinical information such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). Below is COVID-19 testing, coding and other information that might be helpful for health care providers. For more information about the virus, please visit the CDC and/or WHO websites dedicated to this issue.

Does Aetna cover the cost of COVID-19 testing for members?

CVS Health recently announced Aetna will waive co-pays and apply no cost-sharing for all diagnostic testing related to COVID-19 and there will be no member out of pocket cost. This policy will cover the cost of physician-ordered testing for patients who meet CDC guidelines, which can be done in any approved laboratory location. Aetna will waive the member costs associated with diagnostic testing at any authorized location for all Commercial, Medicare and Medicaid lines of business. Self-insured plan sponsors will be able to opt-out of this program at their discretion.

What other CVS Health resources are available to support hospitals with the treatment COVID-19?

CVS Health in-house clinicians and our Enterprise Response and Resiliency team are closely monitoring the situation and are in regular contact with the CDC and WHO. Teams are collaborating with partners across the CVS Health enterprise to help bolster business unit


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Patients who have concerns that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or may have symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their physician or local/state Department of Health for testing. The test specimens will be obtained and then sent to a laboratory. We are not currently able to do specimen collection or testing at MinuteClinic or CVS Retail pharmacies. The CDC states that coronavirus testing may be performed on patients with a doctor's approval.

What commercial labs have the ability to test for COVID-19?

Quest Diagnostics and LabCorp have announced they will launch a COVID-19 test service. They are providing updates to their provider community on their capabilities and how to order the tests. Aetna will continue to provide updates on the other labs that will have testing capabilities. Aetna continues to reach out to the commercial labs with their ability to provide the COVID-19 testing.

Selected labs approved to do COVID-19 testing are (information as of March 6, 2020):

Lab Name	Testing Available
LabCorp	March 5, 2020
Quest Diagnostics	March 9, 2020
Accurate Diagnostics Labs	March 23, 2020
BioReference	TBD
Sonic Healthcare (CBL)	March 23, 2020

How will patients access the COVID-19 testing? Can Aetna members go directly to draw stations?

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How is Aetna tracking the readiness and availability of the new lab test?

Aetna is in contact with commercial labs and tracking the availability of new lab tests.

What is the pricing for COVID-19 testing?

Aetna continues to reach out to the commercial labs with their ability to develop the applicable pricing. CMS has not set pricing for COVID-19 testing, but they are expected to soon.

What Common Procedural Technology (CPT) codes should be used for COVID-19 testing?

Aetna is complying with the CMS coding guidelines for COVID-19 lab testing. CMS adopted two CPT codes, (U0001) and (U0002), for COVID-19 testing.

- U0001 - 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel should be used when specimens are sent to the CDC and CDC-approved local/state health department laboratories.
- U0002 - 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC should be used when specimens are sent to commercial laboratories, e.g. Quest or LabCorp, and not to the CDC or CDC-approved local/state health department laboratories.

For more information and future updates, visit the [CMS website](#) and its [recently issued FAQs](#). CMS has not set pricing for COVID-19 testing, but they are expected to soon.

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- Z03.818 (Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out). Used for cases where there is a concern about a possible exposure to COVID-19, but this is ruled out after evaluation.
- Z20.828 (Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases). Used for cases where there is an actual exposure to someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19.

Signs and Symptoms

- For patients presenting with any signs/symptoms (such as fever, etc.) and where a definitive diagnosis has not been established, assign the appropriate code(s) for each of the presenting signs and symptoms such as:
 - R05 (Cough)
 - R06.02 (Shortness of breath)
 - R50.9 (Fever, unspecified)

Pneumonia

- For a pneumonia case confirmed as due to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), assign codes:
 - J12.89 (Other viral pneumonia)
 - B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)

Bronchitis

- Acute bronchitis confirmed as due to COVID-19, assign codes:
 - J20.8 (Acute bronchitis)

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- B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)
- Assign the following codes if the COVID-19 is documented as being associated with a respiratory infection, NOS:
 - J98.8 (Other specified respiratory disorders)
 - B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)

ARDS

- ARDS due to COVID-19 should be assigned the codes:
 - J80 (Acute respiratory distress syndrome)
 - B97.29 (Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere)

Other

- Diagnosis code B34.2 (Coronavirus infection, unspecified) would in general not be appropriate for the COVID-19, because the cases have universally been respiratory in nature, so the site would not be “unspecified.”
- If the provider documents “suspected”, “possible” or “probable” COVID-19, do not assign code B97.29. Assign a code(s) explaining the reason for encounter (such as fever, or Z20.828).

What other information resources are available?

Visit the Aetna website for [FAQs for members](#) and the CVS Health website for [company press releases](#).



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