

# Payment and Coding Policy Alerts – **COVID-19** **PUBLIC HEALTH** **EMERGENCY** **UPDATE**

JUNE 26, 2020

This is an urgent update to Providence Health Plan's Payment and Coding Policy Alerts. The focus of this update is to communicate coding guidelines and policy changes during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

## CODING AND POLICY UPDATES FOR COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY JUNE 26, 2020

**MODIFIER CS  
REQUIRED FOR  
SERVICES WHERE  
COVID-19 TEST  
ORDERED OR  
ADMINISTERED**

Effective July 1, 2020, Providence Health Plan will require use of Modifier CS for services that result in an order for, or administration of, a COVID-19 test.

**Modifier CS: Cost-sharing for specified covid-19 testing-related services that result in an order for or administration of a covid-19 test**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated the description of Modifier CS in April with a retroactive effective date of March 31, 2020, and they instructed providers to begin using the modifier on services that result in an order for, or administration of, a COVID-19 test.

CPT codes billed with Modifier CS and one of the following diagnosis codes identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as suspicious for COVID-19 will be paid with no cost share for the member.

- Append Modifier CS to each service that led to the decision to order or administer a COVID-19 test.
- One of the following diagnosis codes must be the primary position for each service related to COVID-19 testing for the service to be paid with no cost share for the member.

ICD-10 CODE	DESCRIPTION
B97.29	Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases elsewhere classified (services prior to 4/1/20 only)
J01.80	Other acute sinusitis (not applicable to Medicaid OHP)
J02.8	Acute pharyngitis due to other specified organism
J02.9	Acute pharyngitis , unspecified
J06.9	Acute upper respiratory infection
J20.8	Acute bronchitis due to other specified organism
J22	Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
J80	Acute respiratory distress syndrome
J98.8	Other specified respiratory disorders
M79.10	Myalgia, unspecified site
M79.18	Myalgia, other site
R05	Cough

	R06.02	Shortness of breath
	R09.81	Nasal congestion
	R11.0	Nausea
	R11.1	Vomiting
	R11.2	Nausea and vomiting
	R19.7	Diarrhea
	R43.1	Parosmia
	R43.2	Parageusia
	R43.8	Other disturbances of smell and taste
	R43.9	Unspecified disturbances of smell and taste
	R50.9	Fever, unspecified
	R51	Headache
	R53.8	Malaise and fatigue
	R68.83	Chills without fever
	U07.1	2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease (confirmed diagnosis only, for services on or after 4/1/20)
	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
<b>UPDATES TO TELEHEALTH POLICIES</b>	<p>PHP has three policies for telehealth services during the COVID-19 public health emergency, one for Medicare lines of business, one for Commercial lines of business, and one for Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). All three policies have been updated to show that emergency provisions in the policies for the COVID-19 public health emergency have been extended to December 31, 2020.</p> <p>Providers are reminded that telehealth services may not be billed “incident to” but must be performed by the provider who bills for the service.</p>	