



Effective:	3/12/2021
Last Approved:	3/9/2021
Last Revised:	3/9/2021
Next Review:	3/9/2022

COVID-19 Testing

Applicable Lines of Business:

- ✓ Commercial - Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), Preferred Provider Option (PPO) and Point of Service (POS)
- ✓ Medicare Advantage - SecureCare HMO (includes the Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan [DSNP]) and SecureChoice PPO
- ✓ Mountain Health Trust (MHT) including WV Medicaid (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF], Expansion [WV Health Bridge] and Supplemental Security Income [SSI] populations) and West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP)
- ✓ Self-Funded/Administrative Services Only (ASO)
- ✓ West Virginia Public Insurance Agency (WV PEIA)

Applicable Claim Type:

- Dental
- ✓ Facility
- ✓ Pharmacy
- ✓ Professional

Definitions:

Term	Definition
Bureau for Medical Services (BMS)	BMS is the designated single state agency responsible for the administration of the State of West Virginia's Medicaid program.
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)	A federal agency that provides health coverage to more than 100 million people through Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplace.
Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides low-cost health coverage to children in families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid.
Coronavirus	A kind of common virus that causes an infection in the nose, sinuses, or upper throat.
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2.

Policy Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to address general payment guidelines related to COVID-19 testing as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Bureau for Medical Services (BMS).

Policy Description:

The Health Plan (THP) is following the measures related to COVID-19 testing instituted by CMS and BMS during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Originating February 12, 2021 and **effective March 12, 2021**, this policy is applicable to in-network and out-of-network providers and facilities for all of The Health Plan's (THP) Commercial, Medicare Advantage, Mountain Health Trust, Self-Funded (ASO) and WV PEIA members.

Commercial Reimbursement Guidelines:

THP is following CMS' coding guidelines for Commercial members receiving COVID-19 testing.

See applicable covered codes for Commercial members in the appropriate table below.

Medicare Advantage Reimbursement Guidelines:

THP is following CMS' coding guidelines for Medicare Advantage members receiving COVID-19 testing.

COVID-19 testing is permitted by a home health nurse for Medicare Advantage patients treated in a home health setting during a covered visit.

COVID-19 testing is also permitted for non-hospital inpatients if the specimen is a type that requires more than the services of just a messenger pick up.

See applicable covered codes for Medicare Advantage members in the appropriate table below.

Mountain Health Trust Reimbursement Guidelines:

THP is following BMS' coding guidelines for MHT members receiving COVID-19 testing.

See applicable covered codes for MHT members in the appropriate table below.

Self-Funded/ASO Reimbursement Guidelines:

THP is following CMS' coding guidelines for Self-Funded/ASO members receiving COVID-19 testing.

See applicable covered codes for Self-Funded/ASO members in the appropriate table below.

WV PEIA Reimbursement Guidelines:

THP is following CMS' coding guidelines for WV PEIA members receiving COVID-19 testing.

See applicable covered codes for WV PEIA members in the appropriate table below.

Billing Information and Guidelines:

No prior authorization is required prior to COVID-19 testing.

There is no member cost share (including copay, coinsurance and deductible) for any THP line of business (LOB).

Providers are advised to bill the place of service code (POS) that corresponds to where the testing was performed.

Providers are advised to bill POS code 02 for drive through coronavirus testing.

Reimbursement is based upon the provider's contract.

THP Commercial, Self-Funded/ASO & WV PEIA Lines of Business (LOB)		Code Effective Date	Does THP Cover?
Code	THP Covered Code Description		
86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semi quantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	4/10/2020	No
86408	Neutralizing antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), screening	8/10/2020	No
86409	SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibody titer	8/10/2020	No
86413	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)(Coronavirus disease [COVID-19] antibody, quantitative	9/8/2020	No
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	4/10/2020	No
87426	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g., SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	6/25/2020	Yes
87635	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique	3/13/2020	Yes
87636	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B , multiplex amplified probe technique	10/6/2020	Yes
87637	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2	10/6/2020	Yes

	(SARSCoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), influenza virus types A and B , and respiratory syncytial virus , multiplex amplified probe technique		
87811	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (ie, visual) observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	10/6/2020	Yes
0202U	Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus	5/20/2020	No
0223U	Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected	6/25/2020	No
0224U	Antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), includes titer(s), when performed >Do not report 0224U in conjunction with 86769)	6/25/2020	No
0225U	The 0225U code is ePlex® Respiratory Pathogen Panel 2 by GenMark Diagnostics, Inc. The full code description is - Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection) pathogen-specific DNA and RNA, 21 targets, including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2), amplified probe technique, including multiplex reverse transcription for RNA targets, each analyte reported as detected or not detected. This is an update to the ePlex Respiratory Pathogen (RP) Panel test (code 0115U) to add the SARSCoV-2 target. This is the same target addition strategy we saw with the BioFire panel 0202U. GenMark is the manufacturer and will sell the kits to providers. This test does not yet have an FDA EUA.	8/10/2020	No
0226U	The 0226U code is Tru-Immune , by Ethos Laboratories and GenScript® USA Inc. The full code description is - Surrogate viral neutralization test (sVNT), severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), ELISA, plasma, serum. This is a serological test that measures and also quantifies the neutralizing capacity of antibodies against the virus. This test does not yet have an FDA EUA. At this time, only ARCpoint Labs is providing specimen collection for this test.	8/10/2020	No
0240U	Infectious disease (viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific RNA, 3 targets (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2], influenza A , influenza B), upper respiratory specimen, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected	10/6/2020	Yes
0241U	Infectious disease (viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific RNA, 4 targets (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2], influenza A , influenza B , respiratory syncytial virus [RSV]), upper respiratory specimen, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected	10/6/2020	Yes
C9803	Hospital outpatient clinic visit specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov-2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19]), any specimen source or just " Hopd covid-19 spec collect "	3/1/2020	Yes
G2023	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source.	3/1/2020	Yes
G2024	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a skilled nursing facility or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency, any specimen source	3/1/2020	Yes
U0001	CDC 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-ncov) real-time rt-pcr diagnostic panel U0001 is only to be used for the tests developed by the CDC using the CDC test kit. Laboratories that perform testing using a non-CDC test kit will use either CPT® code 87635 or HCPCS code U0002. Because U0001 uses a test kit obtained from the CDC, there is a lower reimbursement rate associated with this code	2/4/2020	Yes
U0002	Non-CDC 2019-ncov coronavirus, sars-cov-2/2019-ncov (covid-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), HCPCS code U0002 is intended for laboratories to report non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19).	2/4/2020	Yes
U0003	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus) Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R.	3/18/2020	Yes
U0004	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R	3/18/2020	Yes
U0005	Add-on payment quick completion code. Starting January 1, 2021, laboratories can bill for the \$25 add-on payment using HCPCS code U0005 if: 1) they completed the COVID-19 Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests (CDLT) in 2 calendar days or less from the date of specimen collection; and 2) the majority of their COVID-19 CDLTs performed using high-throughput technology in the previous calendar month were completed in two calendar days or less for all of their patients.	1/1/2021	Yes

THP Medicare Advantage Line of Business (LOB)		Code Effective Date	Does THP Cover?
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86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semi quantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	4/10/2020	Yes
86408	Neutralizing antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), screening	8/10/2020	Yes
86409	SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibody titer	8/10/2020	Yes
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86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	4/10/2020	Yes
87426	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	6/25/2020	Yes
87635	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique	3/13/2020	Yes
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87637	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), influenza virus types A and B , and respiratory syncytial virus , multiplex amplified probe technique	10/6/2020	Yes
87811	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (ie, visual) observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	10/6/2020	Yes
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0224U	Antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), includes titer(s), when performed. Do not report 0224U in conjunction with 86769)	6/25/2020	Yes
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0240U	Infectious disease (viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific RNA, 3 targets (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2], influenza A , influenza B), upper respiratory specimen, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected	10/6/2020	Yes
0241U	Infectious disease (viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific RNA, 4 targets (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2], influenza A , influenza B , respiratory syncytial virus [RSV]), upper respiratory specimen, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected	10/6/2020	Yes
C9803	Hospital outpatient clinic visit specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov-2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19]), any specimen source or just " Hopcd covid-19 spec collect "	3/1/2020	Yes

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G2024	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a skilled nursing facility or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency, any specimen source	3/1/2020	Yes
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U0002	Non-CDC 2019-ncov coronavirus, sars-cov-2/2019-ncov (covid-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), HCPCS code U0002 is intended for laboratories to report non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19).	2/4/2020	Yes
U0003	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus) Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R.	3/18/2020	Yes
U0004	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R	3/18/2020	Yes
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MHT LOB (including TANF, WV Health Bridge, SSI and WVCHIP)		Code Effective Date	Does THP Cover?
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G2023	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source.	3/1/2020	Yes
G2024	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), from an individual in a skilled nursing facility or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency, any specimen source	3/1/2020	Yes
U0001	CDC 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-ncov) real-time rt-pcr diagnostic panel U0001 is only to be used for the tests developed by the CDC using the CDC test kit. Laboratories that perform testing using a non-CDC test kit will use either CPT® code 87635 or HCPCS code U0002. Because U0001 uses a test kit obtained from the CDC, there is a lower reimbursement rate associated with this code	2/4/2020	Yes
U0002	Non-CDC 2019-ncov coronavirus, sars-cov-2/2019-ncov (covid-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), HCPCS code U0002 is intended for laboratories to report non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19).	2/4/2020	Yes
U0003	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus) Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R.	3/18/2020	Yes
U0004	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R	3/18/2020	Yes
U0005	Add-on payment quick completion code	1/1/2021	Yes
	Starting January 1, 2021, laboratories can bill for the \$25 add-on payment using HCPCS code U0005 if: 1) they completed the COVID-19 Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests (CDLT) in 2 calendar days or less from the date of specimen collection; and 2) the majority of their COVID-19 CDLTs performed using high-throughput technology in the previous calendar month were completed in two calendar days or less for all of their patients.		
THE CODE BELOW IS NON-COVERED, NON-REIMBURSABLE FOR ALL THP LOB:		Code Effective Date	Does THP Cover?
Code	Code Description		
99072	Additional supplies, materials, and clinical staff time over and above those usually included in an office visit or other non-facility service(s) when performed during a Public Health Emergency as defined by law, due to respiratory-transmitted infectious disease	9/8/2020	No

More billing information may be found in The Health Plan's Provider Manual located at healthplan.org "For Providers," "Resources."

References and Research Materials:

1. New CPT codes for multi-virus tests detect COVID-19 and flu. October 7, 2020. American Medical Association, Available at: <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/new-cpt-codes-multi-virus-tests-detect-covid-19-and-flu>
2. COVID-19 Specimen Collection Billing Guideline – Rate Update. December 4, 2020. BMS.
3. COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions on Medicare Fee-For-Service Billing. Pages 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10, 11 and 13 and 14. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/03092020-covid-19-faqs-508.pdf>

Disclaimer:

This policy is intended to provide a general reference regarding billing, coding and documentation guidelines. Coding methodology, regulatory requirements, industry standard claims editing logic, benefit design and other factors are considered in developing payment policies. This policy is intended to serve as a guideline only and does not constitute medical advice, any guarantee of payment, plan pre-authorization, an explanation of benefits, or a contract. This policy does not govern whether a specific procedure is covered under any specific member plan or policy, nor is it intended to address every claim situation. The determination that any service, procedure, item, etc., is covered under a member's benefit plan shall not be construed as a determination that a provider will be reimbursed for services provided. Individual claims may be affected by other factors, including but not necessarily limited to state and federal laws and regulations, legislative mandates, provider contract terms, and THP's professional judgement. Reimbursement for any services shall be subject to member benefits and eligibility on the date of service, medical necessity, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, provider contractual agreement, and applicable referral, authorization,

notification and utilization management guidelines. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, THP's policies apply to both participating and non-participating providers and facilities. THP reserves the right to review and revise these policies periodically as it deems necessary in its discretion, and it is subject to change or termination at any time by THP. THP has full and final discretionary authority for its interpretation and application. Accordingly, THP may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in any particular case.

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All revision dates:

3/9/2021, 2/18/2021