



# Agenda

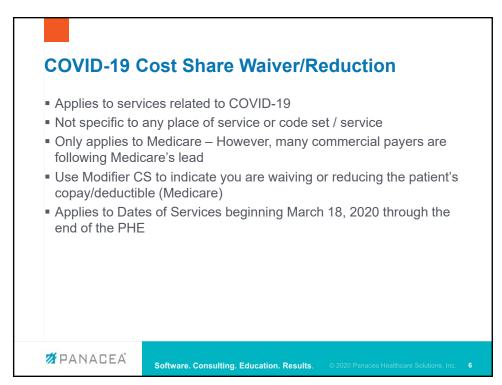
The following topics will be covered as they apply to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and COVID-19:

- · Waiver / Reduction in copayment
- Telehealth
- Physician Supervision Rules
- ICD-10-CM Coding for COVID-19
- Laboratory Coding for COVID-19

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### Coinsurance and Deductibles COVID-19 Related Services

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act waives cost-sharing under Medicare Part B (coinsurance and deductible amounts) for Medicare patients for COVID-19 testing-related services.
- Includes medical visits for the evaluation and management:
  - Result in an order for or administration of a COVID-19 test
- Related to furnishing or administering a COVID-19 test
- Or to evaluate an individual for the purpose of determining the need for such test
- Includes the administration of COVID-19 lab test U0001, U0002, or 87635

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7



#### **Coinsurance and Deductibles COVID-19 Related Services**

- For professional claims, physicians and practitioners who did not initially submit claims with the CS modifier must notify their Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) and request to resubmit applicable claims with dates of service on or after 3/18/2020 with the CS modifier to get 100% payment.
- For institutional claims, providers, including hospitals, CAHs, RHCs, and FQHCs, who did not initially submit claims with the CS modifier must resubmit applicable claims submitted on or after 3/18/2020, with the CS modifier to visit lines to get 100% payment.

Source: <a href="https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-educationoutreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2020-04-07-mlnc-se">https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-educationoutreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2020-04-07-mlnc-se</a>

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#### **Traditional Telehealth and Telemedicine**

- Requires patient to be at an originating site (e.g. rural clinic or hospital) – This is requirement is waived during the PHE
- Distance provider uses HIPAA compliant telecommunication technology to interact with the patient to provide the service(s)
- Only a discrete set of services allowed such as (this is not an allinclusive list):
  - Established patients only
  - Office Visits (99212-99215) (telehealth)
  - Telehealth consultations, emergency department or inpatient (G0425-G0427) (telehealth)
  - E-visits patient initiated through an online patient portal (99421 99423) (G0261-G0262) (telemedicine)
  - Brief check-ins initiated by patient calling the provider (G2012) (telemedicine)



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### **Facility Reporting for Telehealth**

- Q: Can hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies or other healthcare facilities bill for telehealth services?
- A: Billing for Medicare telehealth services is limited to professionals. (Like other professional services, Critical Access Hospitals can report their telehealth services under CAH Method II). If a beneficiary is in a health care facility (even if the facility is not in a rural area or not in a health professional shortage area) and receives a service via telehealth, the health care facility would only be eligible to bill for the originating site facility fee, which is reported under HCPCS code Q3014. But the professional services can be paid for.

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11



### Non-Traditional Telehealth During the PHE

- Beginning March 1, 2020 through the end of the declared PHE including subsequent renewals:
  - Can be New or Established patient
  - Evaluation and Management (E&M) Visits from any location (must be real time audio-visual visits)
  - Telephone calls (audio only visits) 99441-99443 (telemedicine)\*
  - Traditional telehealth services may be provided without the rural area designation or the patient going to an originating site.
  - Relaxed HIPAA guidelines allowing the use of smartphone and other non-traditional audio/visual telecommunication technology
  - Eliminated frequency limitations

\* Temporarily Added to Physician Fee Schedule for duration of PHE

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#### **Telehealth Requirements for E&M Visits During PHE**

- Must use interactive telecommunication systems technology for E&M Services traditionally provided face-to-face (i.e. Face-time, Skype, etc.)
- Must document the visit was provided via audio-visual technology
- Must document consent from the patient to provide the service via a telehealth visit (may be documented by ancillary staff).
- Use Medical Decision Making (MDM) or Time as the determining factor for code selection.
  - · Use the current MDM guidelines/definition
  - Use Time as defined in the 2021 guidelines
- Telephone calls (audio only) (99441-99443) Covered telemedicine service retroactive to March 1, 2020 through the end of the PHE



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42

13



### **Expanded Services Allowed for Telehealth During PHE**

- Office and Other Outpatient (99201-99205)
- Emergency Department (99281-99285)
- Critical Care (99291-99292)
- Observation: Initial, Subsequent and Discharge (99217-99226, 99234-99236)
- Inpatient: Initial, Subsequent, and Discharge (99221-99223, 99231-99233, 99238-99239)
- Initial and Subsequent Nursing Facility (99304-99310, 99315-99316
- Domiciliary, Rest Home, or Custodial Care (99327-99337)\*
- Home Visits (99341-99350)
- Telephone Services (99441-99443) for audio only E&M services (telemedicine)
  - \* 99324 99326 were not listed in the IFR



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# Expanded Services Allowed for Telehealth During PHE

- Inpatient Neonatal and Pediatric Critical Care (99477-99480)
- Care Planning for Patients with Cognitive Impairment (99483)
- Group Psychotherapy (90853)
- ESRD Services (90951-90970)
- Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing (96130-96139)
- Therapy Services (97161-97168, 97110,97112, 97116, 97535, 97750 97761, 92521-92524, 92507) (must be provided by an eligible practitioner)
- Radiation Treatment Management Services (77427)
- Critical Care Consultation Services (G0508-G0509)

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15

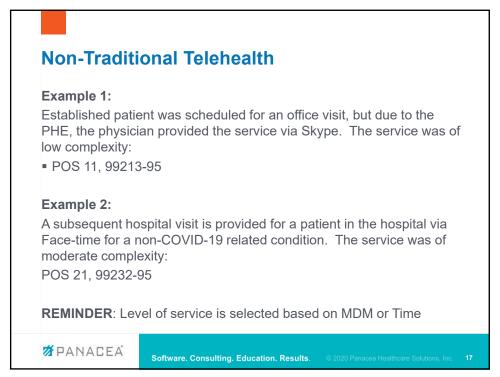
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# How To Code and Bill Non-Traditional Telehealth Services

- Use the CPT code that best describes the encounter <u>if it</u> would have been provided face-to-face
- Use the POS that is associated with the CPT code that best describes the encounter if it would have been provided face-to-face
- Use Modifier 95 to identify the service was provided via telehealth
- Use Modifier CR to identify telemedicine services provided for COVID-19 related services
- Use Modifier CS to identify it is a COVID-19 related E&M service, and you intend to waive or reduce copay

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- "Incident to" services
  - Direct supervision can be provided using real-time interactive audio and video technology
- Direct Supervision of Diagnostic Studies furnished in an on-campus or off-campus outpatient department of a hospital can be provided using telecommunications technology
- Direct Supervision of pulmonary, cardiac and intensive cardiac rehabilitation services can be provided through audio/video real-time communications technology

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10

19



### **Teaching Physician Guidelines During PHE**

- Primary Care Setting All levels of E&M may be provided by a resident under direct supervision of the teaching physician by interactive telecommunications technology
- E&M Services Residents providing E&M services, allow direct supervision of the teaching physician by interactive telecommunications technology
- Diagnostic Radiology and Other Diagnostic Tests Allow interpretation by a resident under direct supervision of the teaching physician by interactive telecommunications technology, the teaching physician must still review the resident's interpretation
- Psychiatric Services Allow direct supervision of the teaching physician by interactive telecommunication technology.
- Surgical, Endoscopic, and Anesthesia Services No changes to current supervision rules. Teaching physician must be physically present during key portions of the procedure

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- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities
  - Still require 3x per week supervision by the rehabilitation physician, but that may be done by interactive telehealth
- Non-Surgical Extended Duration Therapeutic Services (NSEDTS) -
  - Services during the initiation period have been changed from direct to general supervision during the PHE
- Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
  - The requirement for physical presence of the doctor is waived during the PHE, Physician can be available ""through direct radio or telephone communication, or electronic communication for consultation, assistance with medical emergencies, or patient referral."



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21

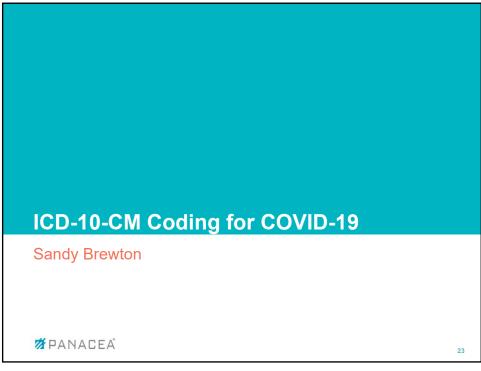


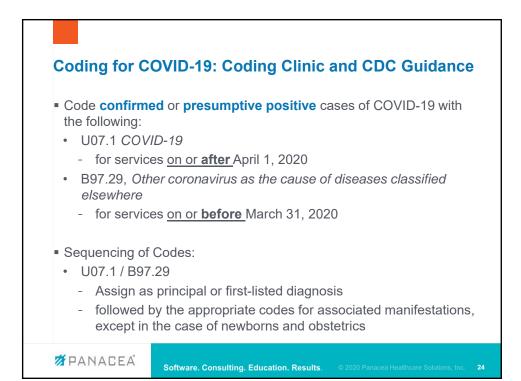
- Physician supervision of NPs in RHCs and FQHCs
  - CMS is modifying the requirement that a physician must provide medical direction for, consultation and medical supervision of nurse practitioners
    - "allows RHCs and FQHCs to use nurse practitioners to the fullest extent possible and allows physicians to direct their time to more critical tasks."

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#### Coding for COVID-19: Coding Clinic and CDC Guidance

- Pneumonia case confirmed as due to COVID-19
  - · Assign J12.89, other viral pneumonia
    - in addition to U07.1 / B97.29
- Acute Bronchitis confirmed as due to COVID-19
- Assign J20.8, Acute Bronchitis due to other specified organism
  - In addition to U07.1 / B97.29
- Lower Respiratory Infection confirmed as due to COVID-19
  - · Assign J22, unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
    - In addition to U07.1 / B97.29
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) due to COVID-19
  - · Assign J80, Acute respiratory distress syndrome
    - In addition to U07.1 / B97.29



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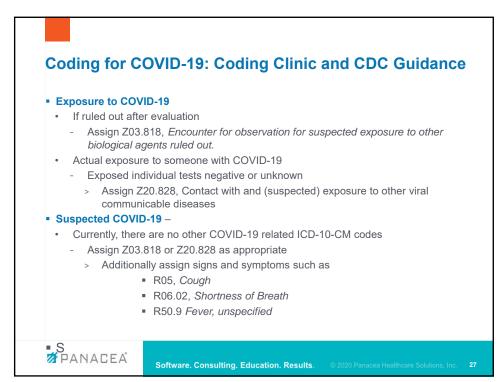
### **Coding for COVID-19: Coding Clinic and CDC Guidance**

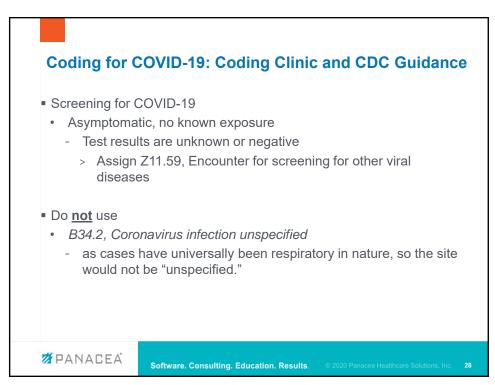
- COVID-19 infection that progresses to Sepsis
  - See Section I.C.1.d. Sepsis, Severe Sepsis, and Septic Shock
- COVID-19 in Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium
  - See Section I.C.15.s, COVID-19 infection in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium
    - During pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium, a patient admitted (or presenting for a health care encounter) because of COVID-19 should receive a principal diagnosis code of O98.5-, Other viral diseases complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, followed by code U07.1, COVID-19, and the appropriate codes for associated manifestation(s). Codes from Chapter 15 always take sequencing priority.

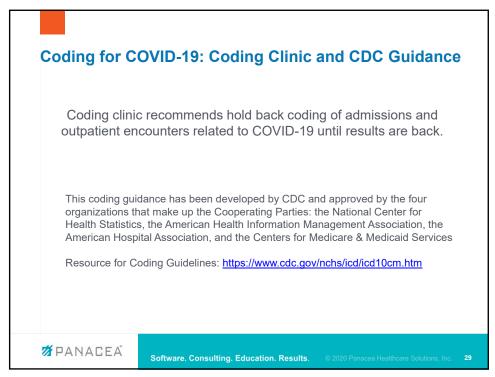


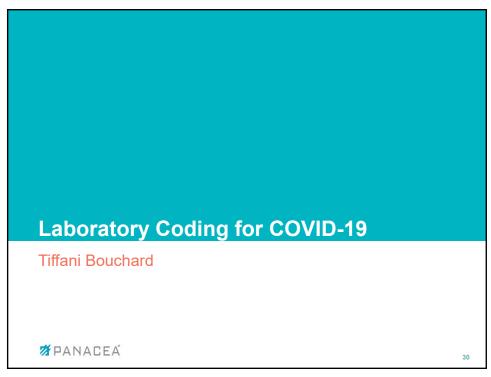
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- For most hospital laboratories codes U0002 and 87635 will likely be used taking into consideration the method for the COVID-19 testing. When the CDC test kit is used, code U0001 will be billed. Hospitals will need to consider the testing method to ensure the most applicable code is reported to Medicare and commercial payers.
- We have noted many of the major payers (Aetna, UnitedHealthcare, BCBS) are allowing the U HCPCS codes for billing.

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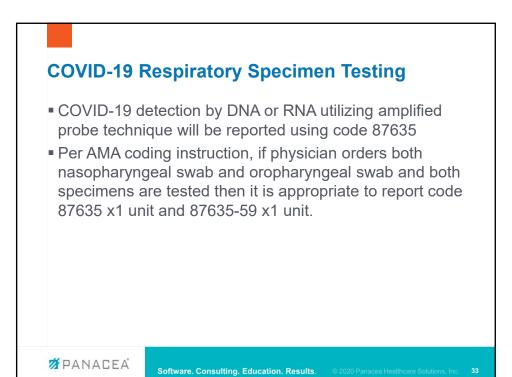
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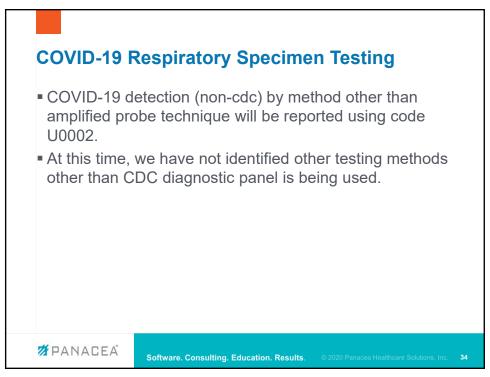
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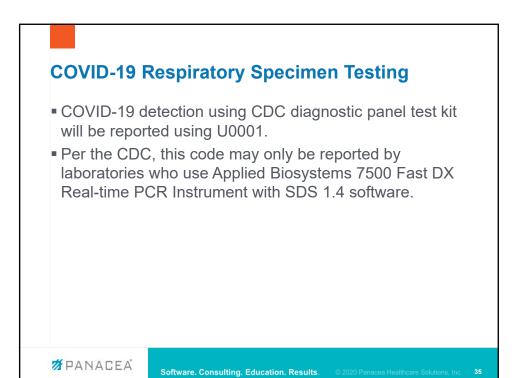
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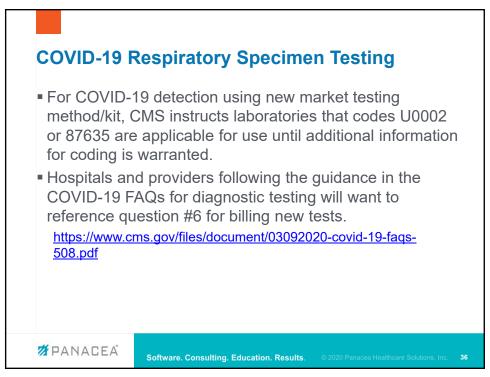
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#### **COVID-19 Respiratory Specimen Testing Status HCPCS Long Description Payment** Indicator Code 87635 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or TBD RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-10]), amplified probe technique CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-\$36 Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel 2019-ncov coronavirus, sars-cov-2/2019-ncov (covid-\$51 19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-cdc # PANACEA Software. Consulting. Education. Results.









# COVID-19 Respiratory Specimen Testing

- Several manufacturers (Abbott, Cepheid, BioFire, bioMerieux, GenMark Dx, Hologic, Quidel Lyra, Roche) have developed rapid testing (some may also be referred to as point of care testing) methods for COVID-19 that have been approved by U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) under the Emergency Use Authorization (EAU).
- Physician offices/clinics who are performing COVID-19 testing by rapid test/kit will want to confirm with the manufacturer the testing method if not certain.

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37

37



### **COVID-19 Serologic Specimen Testing**

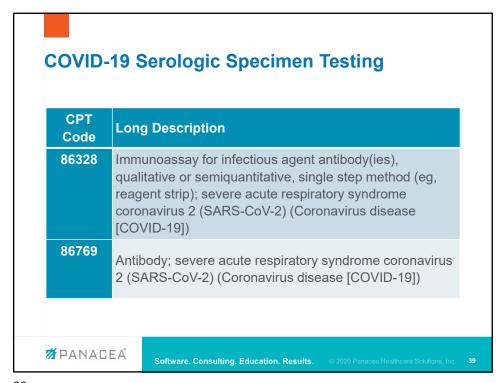
The American Medical Association (AMA) created two new codes for antibody testing (serologic testing). They have indicated these codes are available for use beginning April 10, 2020. Acceptance of these codes will vary by payer, so it may be necessary to hold claims until Medicare and commercial payers have published when they will be prepared to adjudicate claims with these new codes.

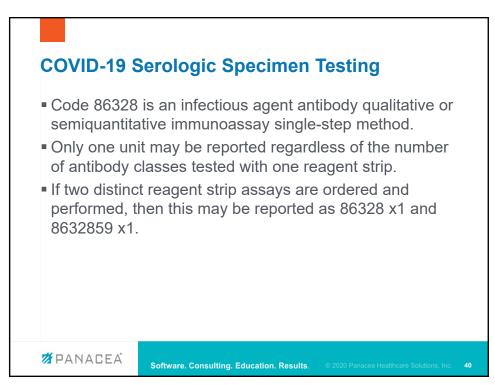
AMA has released a special edition CPT Assistant that can be viewed at the link below

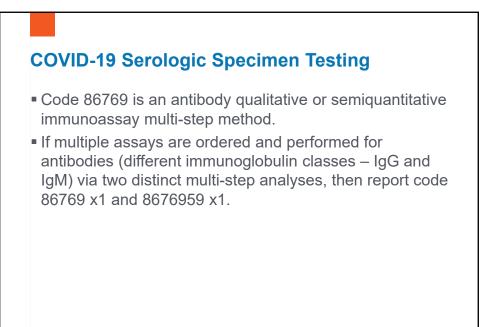
https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus-april-2020.pdf

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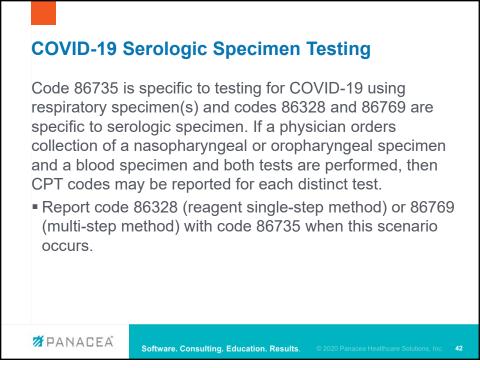




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# COVID-19 Serologic Specimen Testing

In March, the FDA issued a policy to allow developers of certain serological tests to begin to market or use their tests once they have performed the appropriate evaluation to determine that their tests are accurate and reliable. This includes allowing developers to market their tests without prior FDA review if certain conditions outlined in the guidance document are met. The FDA issued this policy to allow early patient access to certain serological tests with the understanding that the FDA has not reviewed and authorized them.

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43

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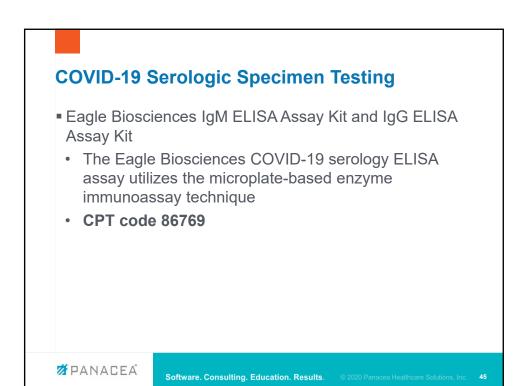


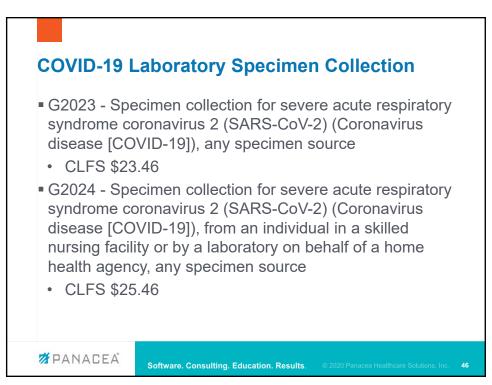
- Cellex qSARS-CoV-2 IgG/IgM Rapid Test
  - Cellex qSARS-CoV-2 IgG/IgM Rapid Test is a lateral flow chromatographic immunoassay unit/reagent strip which can detect both antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus
  - CPT code 86328

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- While CMS has not yet published guidance for units reporting, the hospital will generally report one (1) unit for the specimen collection. The CDC recommended collection methods are via nasopharyngeal (NP) (preferred method), oropharyngeal (OP), nasal midturbinate (NMT) or anterior nares.
- If two methods are ordered by the physician and used to obtain specimens, then it would be appropriate to report one unit for each method.

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47

47

## **COVID-19 Laboratory Specimen Collection**

• CDC does not recommend induction of sputum. CDC does state when clinically indicated (e.g., a patient who is receiving invasive mechanical ventilation) an appropriate specimen via lower respiratory tract aspirate or bronchoalveolar lavage may be performed and tested as lower respiratory tract specimen. Under these methods, specimen collection is inclusive of these procedures and would not be separately reported.

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### **COVID-19 Provider Specimen Collection**

- Depending on the scenario for the specimen collection-will depend on how code and bill.
- Because of the complexity (special training) required for the swab specimen collection methods, code 99000 or 99001 will be used for the specimen collection associated with the face-to-face visit or if the visit is a swab collection only visit.
- If the physician is performing the COVID-19 test (e.g., rapid test kit) in the office in addition to a face-to-face E/M, there is no separate charge for the specimen collection.



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49

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### **COVID-19 Testing Resources**

- CMS <a href="https://www.cms.gov/files/document/03092020-covid-19-faqs-508.pdf">https://www.cms.gov/files/document/03092020-covid-19-faqs-508.pdf</a>
- CMS https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-final-ifc.pdf
- CMS <a href="https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-educationoutreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2020-03-31-mlnc-se">https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-educationoutreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2020-03-31-mlnc-se</a>
- AMA <a href="https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-03/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus.pdf">https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-03/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus.pdf</a>
- AMA <a href="https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/covid-19-coding-advice.pdf">https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/covid-19-coding-advice.pdf</a>
- AMA <a href="https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/cpt-reporting-covid-19-testing.pdf">https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/cpt-reporting-covid-19-testing.pdf</a>



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Panacea has created a COVID-19 resource page on our **Insights** blog to provide valuable resources from regulatory agencies to our clients and the provider community.



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51



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