



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

Tel: (617) 573-1600
Fax: (617) 573-1891
www.mass.gov/eohhs

Administrative Bulletin 20-44

101 CMR 320.00: *Clinical Laboratory Services*

Effective May 11, 2020

Procedure Code and Rate Update Relating to Testing for COVID-19

Purpose, Scope, and Effective Period

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is issuing this administrative bulletin pursuant to the authority of COVID-19 Order #20: *Order Authorizing the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to Adjust Essential Provider Rates During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency* and Executive Order 591: *Declaration of State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19* and 101 CMR 320.01(3): *Coding Updates and Corrections*. EOHHS is adding new procedure codes for clinical laboratory services covering 1) specimen collection codes for purposes of testing for the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); 2) antibody testing for COVID-19; and 3) diagnostic testing for COVID-19. EOHHS is also updating the pricing for previously added diagnostic testing codes for COVID-19.

The rates set forth in this administrative bulletin are applicable until EOHHS issues revised rates.

Disclaimer: This administrative bulletin is not authorization for a provider's use of the new code. Authorization for the provision of, and billing and payment for, laboratory services are pursuant to the MassHealth clinical laboratory services regulations at 130 CMR 320.000: *Independent Clinical Laboratory Services*, 130 CMR 405.000: *Community Health Center Services*, 130 CMR 433.00: *Physician Services*, and other applicable MassHealth provider regulations.

Background

Testing patients for COVID-19 is critical, both for the health of individual patients and the public health. These testing services, including specimen collection, require skilled technicians and special equipment. Accordingly, EOHHS is making the following procedure code and rate updates.



New Procedure Codes and Rates

The changes relating to specimen collection for COVID-19 testing, effective for dates of service on or after March 1, 2020, are as follows.

CODE	CHANGE	RATE	DESCRIPTION
G2023	Addition	\$23.46	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source;
G2024	Addition	\$25.46	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

The changes relating to diagnostic testing for COVID-19, effective for dates of service on or after March 18, 2020, are as follows.

CODE	CHANGE	RATE	DESCRIPTION
U0003	Addition	\$100.00	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.
U0004	Addition	\$100.00	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

The changes relating to antibody testing for COVID-19, effective for dates of service on or after April 10, 2020, are as follows:

CODE	CHANGE	RATE	DESCRIPTION
86328	Addition	I.C.	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]).
86769	Addition	I.C.	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]).

Updated Rates For Previously Added Codes

For dates of service on or after March 12, 2020, rates are as follows.

CODE	CHANGE	RATE	DESCRIPTION
U0002	Rate Update	\$51.31	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19) using any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets).
87635	Rate Update	\$51.31	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

Public Comment

EOHHS will accept comments on the payment rate established via this administrative bulletin through May 25. Individuals may submit written comments by emailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit written comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with the name of this administrative bulletin in the subject line. All submissions of comments must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by email may mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02171.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of this administrative bulletin taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.