



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 20-56

101 CMR 320.00: Clinical Laboratory Services

Effective May 29, 2020

Procedure Code Modifier 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 establishing rates for specimen collection for testing for the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), when the provider also provides ordering and resulting services.

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 modifier. 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, generally require skilled personnel and special equipment. In addition, providers who have an ordering clinician present at the specimen collection site and who provide results to patients after testing incur additional expenses beyond expenses ordinarily incurred when collecting specimens for COVID-19 diagnostic testing.

Rate for Specimen Collection

Effective for dates of service beginning May 22, 2020, the following rates are established for specimen collection for COVID-19 diagnostic testing with additional ordering and resulting services.



CODE	RATE	DESCRIPTION
G2023 CG	\$44.27	Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source. [Used when provider 1) has a qualified ordering clinician present at the specimen collection site available to order medically necessary COVID-19 diagnostic tests; and 2) ensures the test results are provided to the patient (along with any initial follow-up counseling, as appropriate), either directly or through the patient's ordering clinician.]
G2024 CG	\$46.27	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. [Used when provider 1) has a qualified ordering clinician present at the specimen collection site available to order medically necessary COVID-19 diagnostic tests; and 2) ensures the test results are provided to the patient (along with any initial follow-up counseling, as appropriate), either directly or through the patient's ordering clinician.]

Public Comment

EOHHS will accept comments on the payment rates established via this administrative bulletin through June 12, 2020. 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.