

ICD 10 Coding Communication

Dear Providers,

Our large managed care and Medicare Advantage payers will be waiving the patient's cost sharing for COVID-19 related services. Additionally, CU Medicine will be holding all Medicare patient balances to ensure that Medicare patients do not receive a bill for a COVID-19 related service. Both of these actions are highly dependent upon accurate diagnosis coding for all services related to suspected or known COVID infections.

The coding scenarios in this document are designed to apply best coding practices. The American Medical Association (AMA) is working to ensure that all payers are applying the greatest flexibility to our physicians in providing care to their patients during this public health crisis.

Following are conditions that may be related to COVID-19 and will be available in Epic on April 1, 2020.

Exposure to COVID-19

For cases where there is a concern about a possible exposure to COVID-19, but this is ruled out after evaluation, it would be appropriate to assign the code Z03.818, Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out. **(At present time, this code is not available in Epic) Once it is available we will provide an update that you can begin to use it. Until then, please code other diagnosis codes as listed below.**

Actual Exposure to COVID-19

For cases where there is an actual exposure to someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19, it would be appropriate to assign the **code Z20.828**, Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases. **You can create a button or personalize your IP problem list for this code to make it easier to select:**

Epic Code	Exposure to Covid-19 Virus
1494811738	

Actual Diagnosed with COVID-19

U07.1 COVID-19 **You can create a button or personalize your IP problem list for this code to make it easier to select:**

Epic Code	COVID-19
1494821881	

Pneumonia due to COVID-19

For a pneumonia case **confirmed as due to COVID-19**, assign codes J12.89, Other viral pneumonia, along with B97.29, *Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere*. **You can create a button or personalize your IP problem list for this code to make it easier to select:**

Epic Code	Pneumonia due to Covid-19 Virus
1494811674	

Acute Bronchitis

For a patient with acute bronchitis **confirmed as due to COVID-19**, assign codes J20.8, Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms, along with B97.29, *Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere*. **You can create a button or personalize your IP problem list for this code to make it easier to select:**

Epic Code	Acute bronchitis due to COVID-19 virus
1494821697	

ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome)

ARDS **due to COVID-19** should be assigned the codes **J80**, *Acute respiratory distress syndrome*, and **B97.29**, *Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere*. **You can create a button or personalize your IP problem list for this code to make it easier to select:**

Epic Code	Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) due to Covid-19 Virus
1494816042	

Lower Respiratory Infection

If the COVID-19 is documented **as being associated** with lower respiratory infection, not otherwise specified (NOS), or an acute respiratory infection, NOS, this should be assigned with code **J22, Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection**, with code **B97.29, Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere**. **You can create a button or personalize your IP problem list for this code to make it easier to select:**

Epic Code	Covid-19 Virus Infection
1494811646	

If the COVID-19 is documented **as being associated** with a respiratory infection, NOS, it would be appropriate to assign code J98.8, Other specified respiratory disorders, with code B97.29, Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere.

Signs and symptoms

For patients presenting with any signs/symptoms (such as fever, etc.) and **where a definitive diagnosis has not been established**, assign the appropriate code(s) for each of the presenting signs and symptoms such as:

- R05 Cough
- R06.02 Shortness of breath
- R50.9 Fever, unspecified

If you document “suspected”, “possible” or “probable” COVID-19, **do not assign code** B97.29. Assign a code(s) explaining the reason for encounter (such as fever, or Z20.828).

This coding guidance has been developed by CDC and approved by the four organizations that make up the Cooperating Parties: the National Center for Health Statistics, the American Health Information Management Association, the American Hospital Association, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

For inpatient providers you can personalize your inpatient problem list attached is the Epic step actions – The attachments are created by CHCO Epic but apply to both Adult and Pediatric as UCH Epic is the same process

For outpatient providers you can create short cuts to assist with selecting the diagnosis codes by creating buttons or adding to your preference list. Attached is the Epic step actions - The attachments are created by CHCO Epic but apply to both Adult and Pediatric as UCH Epic is the same process

For assistance with adding Diagnosis buttons, updating your personal preference list or updating a department preference list with the new Coronavirus/COVID-19 codes, please call Epic Support at your hospital.

Regards,
Lisa

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