healthfirst
Health Insurance for New Yorkers

Provider Alert

February 1, 2022

Healthfirst Reimbursement Policy Updates

Effective March 1, 2022 | For All Lines of Business

As a part of Healthfirst's continuing efforts to ensure that our reimbursement policy standards are up to date and compliant with state and national industry standards, our reimbursement policy will undergo several changes effective March 1, 2022. These changes will maintain compliance with industry-accepted coding and reimbursement practices, as well as with state and national regulatory requirements.

Note: this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for the services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

For more details, click on the links below.

- COVID-19 Testing and Specimen Collection
- Nucleic Acid Testing

If you have any questions, please contact your network representative, or call Provider Services at **1-888-801-1660**, Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm.

COVID-19 Testing and Specimen Collection

Policy Overview

Effective March 1, 2022, Healthfirst will no longer reimburse U0003 (COVID-19 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid) and 87635 (COVID-19 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid) on the same day regardless of the provider.

Rationale

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), both tests can detect the same type of SARS-CoV-2. The only difference is that U0003 promotes high throughput technology.

Billing Information

This policy applies to the following CPT codes:

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

U0003: 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

COVID-19 Testing and Specimen Collection

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Policy Overview

Effective March 1, 2022, Healthfirst will no longer reimburse U0004 (COVID-19 lab test non-CDC high throughput) and U0002 (COVID-19 lab test non-CDC) on the same day regardless of the provider.

Rationale

According to CMS, both tests can detect the same type of SARS-CoV-2. The only difference is that U0004 promotes high throughput technology.

Billing Information

This policy applies to the following CPT codes:

U0002: 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC

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

Nucleic Acid Testing

Policy Overview

Effective March 1, 2022, Healthfirst will no longer reimburse multiple nucleic acid testing for SARS-CoV-2 when performed on the same day when there is a positive result. Positive nucleic acid tests for SARS-CoV-2 normally establish the diagnosis and wouldn't need to be repeated. Negative nucleic acid tests can be redone if there are high suspicions of COVID-19, but it is not suggested to be reported on the same day.

Rationale

According to AMA Manual, when two distinct services are reported on the same day by the same provider, a modifier should be appended.

Billing Information

This policy applies to the following CPT codes:

87631: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 3-5 targets

87632: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 6-11 targets

87633: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 12-25 targets

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

Nucleic Acid Testing

(Continued)

87636: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B, multiplex amplified probe technique

87637: Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-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 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

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

0225U: Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection) pathogen-specific DNA and RNA, 21 targets, including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS- CoV-2), amplified probe technique, including multiplex reverse transcription for RNA targets, each analyte reported as detected or not detected

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

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

Nucleic Acid Testing

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U0001: CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel

U0003: 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

Coverage is provided by Healthfirst Health Plan, Inc., Healthfirst PHSP, Inc., and/or Healthfirst Insurance Company, Inc. (together, "Healthfirst").
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