

**Molina Healthcare of New Mexico, Inc. (“Molina”)****COVID-19****(Laboratory Services Update 3/19/2020)****What is COVID-19?**

COVID–19 is a new strain of coronavirus, which originated in Wuhan City, China. The name COVID-19, is short for “coronavirus disease 2019.” This virus causes respiratory illness and has infected thousands of people worldwide. The CDC and WHO are actively monitoring the outbreak of this new coronavirus strain. Visit the CDC’s Traveler’s Health website for travel notices and advisories.

**What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

Common signs of infection include fever, cough, and respiratory symptoms such as shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, this infection can cause pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, kidney failure, and even death.

People with heart and lung disease or weakened immune systems, as well as infants and older adults, are at higher risk for more severe symptoms from this illness.

**How is COVID-19 spread?**

Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. They are usually spread from an infected person to others through the air by coughing and sneezing, and through close personal contact such as touching or shaking hands.

**Who should be tested?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is [telling clinicians](#) to use their judgment in determining whether testing is necessary. They should consider the presence of symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), travel history, contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient and local epidemiology, and should rule out other potential causes of illness.

This expands testing to a wider group of symptomatic patients. Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Decisions on which patients receive testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, as well as the clinical course of illness. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza.

Epidemiologic factors that may help guide decisions on whether to test include: any persons (including healthcare workers) who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset, or a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset.

When there is a suspected case of COVID-19, clinicians should immediately notify their state or local health department and implement infection control practices.

As availability of diagnostic testing for COVID-19 increases, clinicians will be able to access laboratory tests for diagnosing COVID-19 through clinical laboratories performing tests authorized by FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Clinicians will also be able to access laboratory testing through public health laboratories in their jurisdictions. **Clinicians are required to include all applicable diagnosis codes on laboratory requisition requests when ordering laboratory services.**

### What billing codes are related to COVID-19?

CPT	Description HCPCS
U0001	This code is used specifically for CDC testing laboratories
U0002	This code is used for non-CDC testing laboratories
<b>87635</b>	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 (Effective March 13, 2020)

ICD-10	Description
<b>B97.29</b>	Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere <i>ICD-10 Diagnosis Code B97.29 is required on all applicable claims in order for member cost share to be waived. Claims submitted without B97.29 will be processed to apply member cost share.</i>
<b>Z03.818</b>	Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents - ruled out
<b>Z20.828</b>	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases

#### Resource References

CDC: ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines – Supplement. Coding encounters related to COVID-19 Coronavirus Outbreak. Effective: February 20, 2020.

**AMA: CPT® Category I Pathology and Laboratory Code for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) Updated March 13, 2020**

**WHAT MOLINA IS DOING TO HELP ITS MEMBERS:**

**Molina will waive cost sharing for the diagnostic laboratory test for COVID-19. (If the outbreak continues please monitor our provider notifications for potential extension of this policy).** This policy will cover the test kit for patients who meet CDC guidelines for testing, which can be done in any approved laboratory location. Molina will waive the member costs associated with this diagnostic testing for COVID-19 at any authorized location for all Medicare, Marketplace, and Medicaid lines of business. No Prior Authorization is needed for this testing.

**Molina will offer zero co-pay and cost share for participating (PAR) telemedicine visits (where these are a covered benefit) - for any diagnosis. (If the outbreak continues please monitor our provider notifications for potential extension of this policy).** Molina members should use telemedicine as their first line of defense in order to limit potential exposure in physician offices. Cost sharing will be waived for all video visits by in-network providers delivering synchronous virtual care (live video-conferencing) for those plans that cover this type of service.

Molina Healthcare of NM Marketplace members may contact TELADOC® at 1-800-TELADOC (835-2362) or visit [teladoc.com/molinamarketplace](http://teladoc.com/molinamarketplace).

**Molina will waive cost sharing for office visits, urgent care visits, and ED visits where the diagnosis rendered is specifically related to COVID-19. (If the outbreak continues please monitor our provider notifications for potential extension of this policy).** Visits for other symptoms or diagnoses will not have cost sharing waived. This includes not removing cost share for other laboratory testing (besides COVID-19 testing), x-rays, or other add-on testing.

**Molina will relax refill timing on all prescriptions. (If the outbreak continues please monitor our provider notifications for potential extension of this policy).** Refill timing will be relaxed to allow a one-time refill of covered prescription medications prior to expiration of the normal refill waiting period, taking into due consideration risks associated with certain drug classes.

**Molina will allow 90-day prescription volumes.** This covers prescriptions and refills performed at any in-network.

**Molina Nurse Advise Line will continue to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

Molina Healthcare of New Mexico Nurse Advise Line

(888) 275-8750 (English)

(866) 648-3537 (Spanish)

TTY: 711