

Update on Payments for COVID Laboratory Tests

With the official end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, came changes in COVID related CPT®/HCPCS codes accepted by Medicare. CPT/HCPCS codes U0003, U0004, U0005, G2023 and G2024 are no longer payable on or after May 12, 2023. These HCPCS codes are now obsolete. It is important that all labs and providers transition the tests performed back to the most appropriate billable CPT codes in place of these now obsolete codes.

Also of note, the rates on U0003 or U0004 and the add-on code U0005 was as follows:

U0003	20230101	\$75	Cov-19 amp prb hgh thruput
U0004	20230101	\$75	Cov-19 test non-cdc hgh thru
U0005	20230101	\$25	Infec agen detec ampli probe

The Medicare Clinical Lab Fee Schedule rate on CPT code 87635 is currently priced as follows:

87635	20230101	\$51.31	Sars-cov-2 covid-19 amp prb	Amplified DNA or RNA probe detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome	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
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Please note the rate reduction for 87635 versus the previous rates on U0003 and U0004 and the loss of the additional revenue on the obsolete add-on code U0005.

Additional information can be found [here](#).

APS looks to provide ongoing support to our clients to help identify new policies and industry updates. Please do not hesitate to contact your APS Practice Manager with further questions.