State of California

Department of Industrial Relations

DIVISION OF WORKERS’ COMPENSATION



**Order of the Administrative Director of the**

**Division of Workers’ Compensation**

**(Official Medical Fee Schedule**

**– Pathology and Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule**

**Effective for Services Rendered on or after October 1, 2021**

**and earlier dates as specified)**

Pursuant to Labor Code section 5307.1, subdivision (g), the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers’ Compensation orders that the pathology and clinical laboratory portion of the Official Medical Fee Schedule adopted in title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9789.50, is adjusted to conform to changes to the Medicare payment system that were adopted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for calendar year 2021, Quarter Four. The update includes fee schedule changes identified in [CMS Transmittal 10988, Change Request CR 12435](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10988cp.pdf), which may be accessed on the Medicare website. In addition to the adoption of the updated October 2021 clinical laboratory file, the Administrative Director adopts specified COVID-19 related testing codes and prices based upon 120% of the price set by the California Medicare Administrative Contractor Noridian.

Medicare Data Source and Incorporation by Reference

Except as set forth below, effective for services rendered on or after October 1, 2021, the maximum reasonable fees for pathology and clinical laboratory services shall not exceed 120% of the applicable fees set forth in the calendar year 2021 Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule, contained in the electronic file “[21CLABQ4](https://www.cms.gov/files/zip/21clabq4.zip)” which is adopted and incorporated by reference.

The Administrative Director adopted fees for COVID-19 related testing codes by orders dated April 15, 2020 and May 21, 2020. The codes were priced based on 120% of the fees established by the California Medicare Administrative Contractor Noridian, based upon the CMS document “[Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) COVID-19 Test Pricing May 19, 2020](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mac-covid-19-test-pricing.pdf)”, because national Medicare prices had not been established. The following COVID-19 related codes still do not have national Medicare prices, therefore it is ordered that the maximum prices as set forth below, based upon 120% of the local MAC-set price, continue for services rendered on or after the dates specified.

| **COVID-19 Testing Codes and Specimen Collection Codes and Descriptors** | **Initial Effective Date**  **(Services on or After)** | **Maximum Workers’ Compensation Fee**  **(120% of Medicare Rate)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| U0001  Short Descriptor: 2019 –nCoV diagnostic P  Long Descriptor: CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel | February 4, 2020 | $43.09 |
| U0002  Short Descriptor: COVID-19 lab test non-CDC  Long Descriptor: 2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC | February 4, 2020 | $61.57 |
| CPT 87635  Short Descriptor: SARS-COV-2 COVID-19 AMP PRB  Long Descriptor: 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 | March 13, 2020 | $61.57  (See [CMS-Ruling 2020-1-R](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-2020-01-r.pdf) : “It is noted that U0003 should identify tests that would otherwise be identified by CPT code 87635 but for being performed with these high throughput technologies.”) |
| CPT 86769  Short Descriptor: SARS-COV-2 COVID-19 ANTIBODY  Long Descriptor: Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) | April 10, 2020 | $50.56 |
| CPT 86328  Short Descriptor: IA NFCT AB SARSCOV2 COVID19  Long Descriptor: Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) | April 10, 2020 | $54.28 |

In addition to the above-referenced maximum fees, the following codes and maximum fees related to COVID-19 testing previously adopted for services rendered on or after April 1, 2021 continue in effect. The codes do not yet have national fees in the CMS Clinical Laboratory file, therefore the fees are based upon 120% of the fees established by Noridian, the California Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). The source documents for the MAC priced codes are the CMS document [Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) COVID-19 Test Pricing](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mac-covid-19-test-pricing.pdf) and the [COVID-19 Lab Fees chart](https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/fees-news/fee-schedules/covid-lab-fees) posted to the Noridian website.

| **COVID-19 Testing Codes and Specimen Collection Codes and Descriptors** | **Effective Date**  **(Services on or After)** | **Maximum Workers’ Compensation Fee**  **(120% of Medicare Rate)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CPT 86408  Short Descriptor: NEUTRLZG ANTB SARSCOV2 SCR  Long Descriptor: Neutralizing antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID19]); screen | April 1, 2021 | $50.56 |
| CPT 86409  Short Descriptor: NEUTRLZG ANTB SARSCOV2 TITER  Long Descriptor: Neutralizing antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID19]); titer | April 1, 2021 | $95.53 |
| CPT 86413  Short Descriptor: SARS-COV-2 ANTB QUANTITATIVE  Long Descriptor: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) antibody, quantitative | April 1, 2021 | $61.72 |
| CPT 87426  Short Descriptor: SARSCOV CORONAVIRUS AG IA  Long Descriptor: Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) | April 1, 2021 | $42.40 |
| CPT 87428  Short Descriptor: SARSCOV & INF VIR A&B AG IA  Long Descriptor: Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B | April 1, 2021 | $76.31 |
| CPT 87636  Short Descriptor: SARSCOV2 & INF A&B AMP PRB  Long Descriptor: 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 | April 1, 2021 | $171.16 |
| CPT 87637  Short Descriptor: SARSCOV2&INF A&B&RSV AMP PRB  Long Descriptor: 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 | April 1, 2021 | $171.16 |
| CPT 87811  Short Descriptor: SARS-COV-2 COVID19 W/OPTIC  Long Descriptor: 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]) | April 1, 2021 | $49.66 |
| Code 0224U  COVID-19 Antibody Test, Mt Sinai, Mount Sinai Laboratory  Short Descriptor: ANTIBODY SARS-COV-2 TITER(S)  Long Descriptor:  Antibody, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), includes titer(s), when performed | April 1, 2021 | $50.56 |
| Code 0226U  Tru-ImmuneTM, Ethos Laboratories, GenScript® USA Inc  Short Descriptor: SVNT SARSCOV2 ELISA PLSM SRM  Long Descriptor: Surrogate viral neutralization test (sVNT), severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID19]), ELISA, plasma, serum | April 1, 2021 | $50.74 |
| Code 0240U  Xpert® Xpress SARSCoV-2/Flu/RSV (SARSCoV-2 & Flu targets only), Cepheid  Short Descriptor: NFCT DS VIR RESP RNA 3 TRGT  Long Descriptor: 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 | April 1, 2021 | $171.16 |
| Code 0241U  Xpert® Xpress SARSCoV-2/Flu/RSV (all targets), Cepheid  Short Descriptor: NFCT DS VIR RESP RNA 4 TRGT  Long Descriptor: 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 | April 1, 2021 | $171.16 |

This Order is effective for services rendered on or after October 1, 2021, except for earlier effective dates specified above, and shall be published on the website of the Division of Workers’ Compensation on the [Pathology and Clinical Laboratory webpage](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/OMFS9904.htm#2).

**IT IS SO ORDERED**

Dated: September 17, 2021 /S/ GEORGE P. PARISOTTO\_\_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Director of the

Division of Workers’ Compensation