



March 13, 2020

RE: CMS Develops New Code for Coronavirus Lab Test

Providers,

Healthcare providers who need to test members for Coronavirus using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel may bill Empower for that test using the newly created HCPCS code **U0001**. This code is used specifically for CDC testing laboratories to test patients for SARS-CoV-2.

A second HCPCS billing code **U0002** allows laboratories to bill for non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19). This second HCPCS code may be used for tests developed by these additional laboratories when submitting claims to Medicare or health insurers. CMS expects that having specific codes for these tests will encourage testing and improve tracking.

In cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Health Division of Medical Services (DMS), Empower is working to make these codes payable. As with all services covered under the PASSE there is no beneficiary cost sharing.

For members with Medicare as their primary insurance Medicare should be billed first as the primary insurer. The Medicare claims processing systems will be able to accept these codes starting on April 1, 2020, for dates of service on or after February 4, 2020.

For additional information regarding these new CMS codes see:

[CMS Develops New Code for Coronavirus Lab Test](#)

[CMS Develops Additional Code for Coronavirus Lab Tests](#)

Thank you,

Empower Healthcare Solutions