

DATE: March 17, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Emergency Medical Coding Guidance

In response to the COVID-19 emergency declaration, AHCCCS is providing emergency medical coding guidance related to applicable diagnosis and procedures codes and use of modifiers. This guidance is effective immediately and is anticipated to remain in effect for the period of the emergency. For changes that are temporary in nature, further guidance will be provided to indicate when those changes are no longer in effect.

General AHCCCS COVID-19 FAQ can be found [here](https://azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/covid19FAQ.html):
<https://azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/covid19FAQ.html>.

COVID-19: Diagnosis and Procedure Codes

AHCCCS has added the new procedure codes and diagnosis codes to meet guidelines that are described on the [Center for Disease Control](#) and [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) websites. All codes are currently available for use.

Diagnosis Code:

- U07.1 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease

Procedure Codes:

- U0001 SARS-CoV-2 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-ncov) real-time rt-pcr diagnostic panel (CDC Testing Laboratories)
- U0002 SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-ncov) real-time rt-pcr diagnostic panel
- 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

COVID-19: Use of Modifiers

AHCCCS is requiring the use of specified modifiers related to services provided as a result of, or related to, the COVID-19 emergency. In addition, AHCCCS is providing guidance regarding time-limited, coverage of telehealth services that can be provided telephonically.

1. COVID-19 Emergency Related - "CR" Modifier - Catastrophe/Disaster.

- a. The CR modifier must be used on all claims for services provided as a result of, or related to, the national emergency declaration of March 13, 2020 related to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- b. For example, the CR modifier may be used in the following instances:
 1. Member is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, receives influenza test with positive result, so is not tested for COVID-19 and does not have an associated dx code, but would likely not have received influenza test if not for the emergency.
 2. Member is unable to attend treatment program due to closures and/or quarantine related to the emergency and additional respite hours are provided, which otherwise would likely not have been received if not for the emergency.

2. Telephonic Telehealth Services

AHCCCS has established two telephonic code sets that are available for use:

- a. Table I, **AHCCCS Telephonic Code Set (Temporary)** provides the lists of codes available on a temporary basis to be provided telephonically starting on dates of service March 17, 2020 until the end of the COVID-19 declared emergency.
 1. The UD modifier must be used when billing the applicable CPT or HCPCS code to designate telephonic service.
 2. The Place of Service (POS) is the originating site (ie, where the member is located at the time of the telephonic service delivery).
- b. Table II, **AHCCCS Telephonic Code Set (Permanent)** are codes that have been available for use telephonically prior to the COVID-19 declared emergency and will continue to be available after the end of the emergency. There is no change to the coding standards for these codes. When providing these services telephonically, please continue to utilize POS 02 telehealth.

Telehealth services should otherwise continue to be billed in compliance with [AMPM 320-I Telehealth](#) and the [AHCCCS Telehealth Code List with POS criteria](#).

Table I. **AHCCCS Telephonic Code Set (Temporary)**¹

Code	Description	Modifier Telephonic (UD)
90791	Psychiatric diagnostic evaluation	UD
90792	Psychiatric diagnostic evaluation with medical services	UD
90832	Psychotherapy, 30 minutes with patient	UD
90833	Psychotherapy, 30 minutes with patient when performed with an evaluation and management service (List separately in addition to the code for primary procedure)	UD
90834	Psychotherapy, 45 minutes with patient	UD

90836	Psychotherapy, 45 minutes with patient when performed with an evaluation and management service (List separately in addition to the code for primary procedure)	UD
90837	Psychotherapy, 60 minutes with patient	UD
90838	Psychotherapy, 60 minutes with patient when performed with an evaluation and management service (List separately in addition to the code for primary procedure)	UD
90839	Psychotherapy for crisis; first 60 minutes	UD
90840	Psychotherapy for crisis; each additional 30 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary service)	UD
90845	Psychoanalysis	UD
90846	Family psychotherapy (without the patient present), 50 minutes	UD
90847	Family psychotherapy (conjoint psychotherapy) (with patient present), 50 minutes	UD
90849	Multiple-family group psychotherapy	UD
90853	Group psychotherapy	UD
92508	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder; group, 2 or more individuals	UD
96164	Health behavior intervention, group (2 or more patients), face-to-face; initial 30 minutes	UD
96165	Health behavior intervention, group (2 or more patients), face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary service)	UD
97150	Therapeutic procedure(s), group (2 or more individuals)	UD
97158	Group adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by qualified health care professional to multiple patients each 15 minutes	UD
97804	Medical nutrition therapy; group (2 or more individual(s)), each 30 minutes	UD
99411	Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to individuals in a group setting (separate procedure); approximately 30 minutes	UD
99412	Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to individuals in a group setting (separate procedure); approximately 60 minutes	UD
99201	New patient office or other outpatient visit, typically 10 minutes	UD
99202	New patient office or other outpatient visit, typically 20 minutes	UD
99203	New patient office or other outpatient visit, typically 30 minutes	UD

99204	New patient office or other outpatient visit, typically 45 minutes	UD
99205	New patient office or other outpatient visit, typically 60 minutes	UD
99211	Established patient office or other outpatient visit, typically 5 minutes	UD
99212	Established patient office or other outpatient visit, typically 10 minutes	UD
99213	Established patient office or other outpatient visit, typically 15 minutes	UD
99214	Established patient office or other outpatient, visit typically 25 minutes	UD
99215	Established patient office or other outpatient, visit typically 40 minutes	UD
99358	Prolonged evaluation and management service before and/or after direct patient care; first hour	UD
99359	Prolonged evaluation and management service before and/or after direct patient care; each additional 30 minutes (List separately in addition to code for prolonged service)	UD
99241	Patient office consultation typically 15 minutes	UD
99242	Patient office consultation typically 30 minutes	UD
99243	Patient office consultation typically 40 minutes	UD
99244	Patient office consultation typically 60 minutes	UD
99245	Patient office consultation typically 80 minutes	UD
G0270	Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease) individual face-to-face with the patient each 15 minutes	UD
G0271	Medical nutrition therapy, reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition, or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), group (two or more individuals), each 30 minutes	UD
H0001	Alcohol and/or drug assessment	UD
H0002	Behavioral health screening to determine eligibility for admission to treatment program	UD
H0004	Behavioral health counseling and therapy, per 15 minutes	UD
H0015	Alcohol and/or drug services; intensive outpatient (treatment program that operates at least 3 hours/day and at least 3 days/week and is based on an individualized treatment plan), including assessment, counseling; crisis intervention, and activity therapies or education	UD
H0031	Mental health assessment, by nonphysician	UD

T1002	RN services, up to 15 minutes	UD
T1003	LPN/LVN services, up to 15 minutes	UD
T1015	Clinic visit/encounter all-inclusive ²	UD

¹Place of Service (POS) is originating site (where member is located at the time of the telephonic service delivery)

² In order for T1015 to be utilized, one or more other services from this telephonic code list must be provided

Table II, **AHCCCS Telephonic Code Set (Permanent)**

Code	Description	Place of Service (POS) Telehealth 02
98966	Telephone assessment and management service provided by a qualified nonphysician health care professional to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related assessment and management service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an assessment and management service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 5-10 minutes of medical discussion	POS 02
98967	Telephone assessment and management service provided by a qualified nonphysician health care professional to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related assessment and management service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an assessment and management service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 11-20 minutes of medical discussion	POS 02
98968	Telephone assessment and management service provided by a qualified nonphysician health care professional to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related assessment and management service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an assessment and management service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 21-30 minutes of medical discussion	POS 02
99441	Telephone evaluation and management service by a physician or other qualified health care professional who may report evaluation and management services provided to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related E/M service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an E/M service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 5-10 minutes of medical discussion	POS 02

99442	Telephone evaluation and management service by a physician or other qualified health care professional who may report evaluation and management services provided to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related E/M service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an E/M service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 11-20 minutes of medical discussion	POS 02
99443	Telephone evaluation and management service by a physician or other qualified health care professional who may report evaluation and management services provided to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related E/M service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an E/M service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 21-30 minutes of medical discussion Telephone evaluation and management service by a physician or other qualified health care professional who may report evaluation and management services provided to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related E/M service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an E/M service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 21-30 minutes of medical discussion	POS 02
H0025	Behavioral health prevention education service (delivery of services with target population to affect knowledge, attitude and/or behavior)	POS 02
H0038	Self-help/peer services, per 15 minutes	POS 02
H2014	Skills training and development, per 15 minutes	POS 02
H2025	Ongoing support to maintain employment, per 15 minutes	POS 02
S5110	Home care training, family; per 15 minutes	POS 02
T1016	Case management, each 15 minutes	POS 02