

New ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes to capture COVID-19 diagnoses, starting Jan. 1, 2021

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics, has released a January ICD-10-CM code update, which is effective for dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2021. The update was released in response to the national emergency that was declared due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The update includes six new ICD-10-CM (diagnosis) codes to capture COVID-19 diagnoses. When appropriate, bill these new codes, which are:

- J12.82 — Pneumonia due to coronavirus disease 2019
- M35.81 — Multisystem inflammatory syndrome
- M35.89 — Other specified systemic involvement of connective tissue
- Z11.52 — Encounter for screening for COVID-19. Use only for asymptomatic patients. (The more generic version of this code is Z11.59.)
- Z20.822 — Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19

Note: Previously, we advised you to bill Z20.828. This new code is specific to COVID-19.

- Z86.16 — Personal history of COVID-19

We updated the following documents to include the new codes:

- *Billing tips for COVID-19 at a glance*
- *Billing tips for COVID-19*
- *Billing recommendations for COVID-19 testing, including drive through*

You can find these documents on our public website at bcbsm.com/coronavirus and through Provider Secured Services.

We first told you about these new codes in the January 2021 issue of *The Record*. For more information, visit the [ICD-10 section](#)* of the CMS website:

1. From the home page, click on *2021 ICD-10-CM* or *2021 ICD-10 PCS*.
2. In the *Downloads* section of the page, you can select *Coding Guidelines*, *Code Descriptions* or other key information you may need.

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Provider Alert

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