

Correct Coding for COVID-19 Specimen Collection Services

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COMMERCIAL AND MEDICARE MEMBERS

For dates of service on or after March 1, 2020, independent clinical diagnostic laboratories that collect COVID-19 specimens from homebound and skilled nursing facility patients should bill for specimen collection using the G2023 or G2024 codes as noted below. Hospital outpatient departments should bill for symptom assessment and specimen collection for COVID-19 using code C9803. Physician offices should bill for specimen collection using code 99211-C. These codes should only be used when the provider or facility is NOT running the test. Inaccurate coding will result in denials/delays in claims processing.

MEDICAID MEMBERS

In addition to the above guidance, and consistent with NYS Medicaid billing guidance, for dates of service on or after May 22, 2020, Practitioners or Clinics should bill for specimen collection for COVID-19 testing using the G2023 code noted below. This code should only be billed when no other service was rendered/billed by the provider for the given member and date of service and the provider is NOT billing for any COVID lab codes. If billing for reimbursement for a COVID lab code, provider should not bill separately for specimen collection. Independent laboratories (POS-81) are not separately reimbursable for specimen collection.

- G2023 – Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency, any specimen source
- G2024 – Specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) from an individual in a skilled nursing facility by a laboratory, any specimen source
- C9803 – Hospital outpatient clinic visit specimen collection for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source
- 99211-CS – Use for specimen collection in the physician office for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), any specimen source