

Guidance on Coding for COVID-19

COVID-19 is a PMB condition:

Benefits will apply if the diagnosis has been confirmed and should include the following:

- Consultations.
- Clinical Appropriate Diagnostic Tests.
- All Clinical Appropriate Medication.
- Costs for Hospitalization, including all complications and rehabilitation.

Take note that the use of Designated Service Providers, Clinical Protocols and Formularies should apply.

Valid ICD 10 Codes for COVID-19:

U07.1 COVID-19, virus identified. (**Confirmed Case**)

U07.2 COVI-19, virus not identified (**Suspected Case**)

- Clinically-epidemiologically diagnosed COVID-19
- Probable COVID-19
- Suspected COVID-19

Both codes are Valid Primary ICD 10 codes and valid for Clinical use.

How to apply ICD 10 Codes for COVID-19

Use U07.1 for **Confirmed cases**.

Use U07.2 for **Suspected cases**. Once a Suspected case is confirmed it will change to U07.1

More than one code can be applied to describe the presentation of the patient such as:

- Code **Z11.5** *Special screening examinations for other viral diseases* This code can be used for Patient Under Investigation (PUI) instead of **U07.2** if the patient presents with only one or two symptoms without meeting other criteria to suspect COVID-19.
- Use Symptom codes, The **R codes** which describes symptoms such as **R50.9** for *Pyrexia of unknown origin* or **R05** *Cough*, **R06.0** *Shortness of Breath*.
- Use Diagnostic codes such as **J12.8** *Viral Pneumonia*.
- Once confirmed you will replace the U07.2 with U07.1. Only then will it be a PMB condition.
- Use Intervention/Procedure codes to capture any mechanical ventilation or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and identify any admission to intensive care unit.
- Use additional codes for **isolation (Z29.0)** or **laboratory examination (Z01.7)** as required for specific case.

Z20.8 *Contact with and exposure to other communicable diseases* can also be applied.

Examples for using ICD 10 Codes: (ref PHISC 18 March 2020 and SAMA 6 April 2020)

- Example of using Symptom/Diagnostic codes for **Confirmed** COVID-19 case presenting with:

Primary ICD-10: J96.09 Acute respiratory failure, Type unspecified.

Secondary ICD-10: U07.1 Emergency use of U07.1.

- Example of additional Symptom (Code R) or Diagnostic codes for **Suspected** case:

Primary ICD-10: J12.8 Viral Pneumonia.

Secondary ICD-10: R50.9 Fever, unspecified.

Secondary ICD-10: U07.2 Emergency use of U07.2

After pathology results has confirmed positive identification of COVID-19, the ICD-10 U07.2 must be changed to U07.1

- Example for applying the Z11.5 code while **awaiting confirmation** of the result in a patient that does not strictly meet the case definition.

Primary ICD-10: R06.0 Dyspnoea.

Secondary ICD-10: R50.9 Fever, unspecified.

Secondary ICD-10: Z11.5 Special screening examination for other viral diseases.

After confirmation by pathology that it is indeed an infection caused by COVID-19, the Z11.5 may be replaced with U07.1 (Emergency use of U07.1).

Both of the above examples can also use the code Z20.8 (*Contact with and exposure to other communicable diseases*) plus Codes for symptoms.

How to code COVID-19 as Cause of death

Both categories, U07.1 (COVID-19, virus identified) and U07.2 (COVID-19, virus not identified) are suitable for cause of death coding.

COVID-19 Ruled out as cause of disease

Patient present with acute respiratory illness; testing is negative, and COVID-19 is ruled out

Code the relevant stated infection/diagnosis with correlating ICD 10 code in the primary position + add **Z03.8 *Observation for other suspected disease and conditions***

Self-referral: after assessment no reason to suspect disease and further investigations deemed unnecessary

Code Z71.1 *Person with feared complaint in whom no diagnosis is made*

Based on clinical judgement, clinicians may order a test for the SARS-CoV-2 virus in patient who does not strictly meet the case definition.

Code **Z11.5** *Special screening examinations for other viral diseases*.

Patients present with acute respiratory illness	Contact or suspected exposure	ICD 10 Codes
No other etiology; history of travel	X	U07.2; Z20.8(<i>Contact with and exposure to other communicable diseases</i>) + Codes for symptoms (R- Codes)
Contact with confirmed or probable case	X	U07.2; Z20.8 + Codes for symptoms
No other etiology; hospitalization required		U07.2 + Codes for symptoms
COVID-19 documented without any further information re-testing		U07.2; Z20.8 + Codes for any symptoms

Patients present with acute respiratory illness	Contact or suspected exposure	ICD 10 Codes
No other etiology; history of travel	X	U07.2; Z20.8(<i>Contact with and exposure to other communicable diseases</i>) + Codes for symptoms (R- Codes)
Contact with confirmed or probable case	X	U07.2; Z20.8 + Codes for symptoms
No other etiology; hospitalization required		U07.2 + Codes for symptoms
COVID-19 documented without any further information re-testing		U07.2; Z20.8 + Codes for any symptoms

	Presenting clinical scenario	ICD 10 Codes
COVID-19 ruled out	Patient present with acute respiratory illness; testing is negative, and COVID-19 is ruled out	Code the relevant stated infection/diagnosis with correlating ICD 10 code in the primary position + add Z03.8 <i>Observation for other suspected disease and conditions</i>
	Self-referral: after assessment no reason to suspect disease and further investigations deemed unnecessary	Code Z71.1 <i>Person with feared complaint in whom no diagnosis is made</i>
Screening test for COVID-19	Based on clinical judgement, clinicians may order a test for the SARS-CoV-2 virus <u>in patient who does not strictly meet the case definition.</u>	Code Z11.5 <i>Special screening examinations for other viral diseases.</i>

