Friday, March 27, 2020
Enquiries: Ms Lydia Mahlangu
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**Dear Doctor,**

**RE: COVID-19 IS A PRESCRIBED MINIMUM BENEFIT (PMB) CONDITION**

The Council for Medical Scheme has categorized COVID-19 as a Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB).

As a result, funding for the treatment of COVID-19 will be from PMB. In order to mitigate potential over utilization and abuse, managed care protocols will be applied which are in line with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) guidelines.

The funding protocol include the following:

- Two GP Consultations.
- COVID-19 PCR test.
    - All positive tests will be funded from PMB.
    - All negative tests will be funded from out-of-hospital benefits.
- All clinically appropriate acute medication within Polmed's acute formulary.
- Cost of hospitalisation subject to preauthorisation.
- Telehealth consultation will also be supported.

We thank you in advance for your commitment to assist Polmed members who may contract COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Jaco Makkink**
**CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**

# COVID-19 DISEASE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## 1. Pathology

The three major laboratories confirmed that they will be billing the following code/s:

| Lab | Test Code/s |
|---|---|
| Ampath | 3974 |
| PathCare | 4434 |
| Lancet | 4439 |

NAPPI:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1064666 | CORONAVIRUS TEST KIT PCR |
| 1064667 | CORONAVIRUS TEST KIT RT |
| 1064365 | CORONAVIRUS TEST AT |
| 1064218 | TEST CORONA RAPID |
| 1064449 | TEST COVID 19 BSS BIOSYNEX |

**Please note:** The pathology tariff codes are inclusive of the test NAPPI's and cannot be billed separate.

## 2. Clinical coding in relation to diagnosis of COVID-19 disease

- As per PHISC the ICD 10 code **U07.1** for COVID-19 will be used. (The PHISC standard is the adopted SA standard.) U07.1 - Coronavirus Disease-19. This code is used for **confirmed cases**

- **Example 1:** Patient admitted with a fever, coughing and shortness of breath. Pathology confirms the cause is Coronavirus disease. *PDX: U07.1 Emergency use of U07.1

- **Example 2**: Patient admitted with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) caused by the Coronavirus: COVID-19. *PDX: U07.1 Emergency use of U07.1 SDX: U04.9 Severe acute respiratory syndrome, unspecified

- **Example 3**: A patient diagnosed with confirmed COVID-19 is presenting with acute respiratory failure. *PDX: J96.09 Acute respiratory failure, Type unspecified   SDX: U07.1 Emergency use of U07.1

- **Example 4**: Patient admitted with shortness of breath and a fever. Coronavirus disease is suspected, bloods have been sent to the laboratory for testing. PDX: R06.0 Dyspnoea SDX: R50.9 Fever, unspecified SDX: Z11.5 Special screening examination for other viral diseases