

cpt[®] Assistant

Official source for CPT coding guidance

SPECIAL EDITION: November Update

COVID-19 November Update

As the flu season approaches and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic persists, the necessity for a single test that measures antigens for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus (CoV) (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) as well as influenza virus types A and B has become apparent.

During the November Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]) Editorial Panel (Panel) meeting, the Panel approved an additional code for the Microbiology subsection of the Pathology and Laboratory section of the CPT code set. To address the ongoing clinical need to report COVID-19 testing, the Panel expedited the publication of this additional code to the AMA website on November 10, 2020, at <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-2019-novel-coronavirus-resource-center-physicians>. This code is effective immediately for use in reporting this laboratory test.

Microbiology

▲87301 Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric

assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; adenovirus enteric types 40/41

▲87426 severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19])

#●87428 severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B

Background

Currently, there are two existing CPT codes to report antigen testing using immunoassay technique for influenza type A or B (87400) and SARS-CoV-2 (87426). However, there is no code that describes multiplex immunoassay antigen testing for these three viral targets, ie, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19], and influenza virus types A and B. A code to report a multiplex viral pathogen panel using an antigen immunoassay technique would facilitate reporting SARS-CoV-2 testing, along with influenza types A and B in the differential diagnosis.

continued on next page

Analogous codes have been adopted for multiplex viral pathogen panels using molecular methods for detecting nucleic acids (eg, 87636, *Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B, multiplex amplified probe technique*; 87637, *Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), influenza virus types A and B, and respiratory syncytial virus, multiplex amplified probe technique*).

The following clinical example and procedural description reflect a typical clinical situation for which this new code would be appropriately reported. Because of the early deployment and utilization of these tests, clinical indications are subject to further refinement as knowledge of the novel coronavirus

evolves. The Panel will continue to review and may clarify these indications as more information becomes available.

Clinical Example (87428)

A 50-year-old female presents with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. A nasopharyngeal swab is collected for SARS CoV-2, influenza A, and influenza B antigen testing.

Description of Procedure (87428)

Place the swab and swirl it in a supplied reagent tube to disrupt and release viral nucleoprotein antigens; transfer an aliquot of that sample to the test cassette sample well; and place it in the analyzer. Report the qualitative results to the ordering health care professional.

AMA Plaza
330 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5885

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMERICAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

cpt[®] **Assistant**



Official source for CPT coding guidance

AMA Staff

Leslie W. Prellwitz, MBA, CCS, CCS-P, Managing Editor
Rejina Young, Editorial Assistant

Contributing Staff

Samantha Ashley; Jennifer Bell; Andrei Besleaga;
Karen O'Hara; Leslie W. Prellwitz; Keisha Sutton-Asaya;
Donna Tyler; Arletrice Watkins; Rejina Young

Development and Production Staff

Mary Ann Albanese; Elizabeth Goodman Duke;
Lisa Chin-Johnson; Katharine Dvorak; Elizabeth Kennedy

Order Information

1 year (12 issues)		
AMA Members*....\$149	Nonmembers....\$199	
2 years (24 issues)		
AMA Members*....\$205	Nonmembers....\$299	
Back Issues		
AMA Members*....\$14.95	Nonmembers....\$19.95	

Discount prices online at amastore.com

Phone Orders:

Call (800) 621-8335 Fax (312) 464-5000.

*To receive the member price, please provide the member's number.

To change address information, please call AMA's Customer Services Department at (800) 621-8335.

Notification of change of address must be made at least six weeks in advance.

AMA website: www.ama-assn.org

Mailing address:

CPT Assistant
AMA Plaza
330 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-5885

The *CPT Assistant* Special Edition information is designed to provide accurate, up-to-date coding information. We continue to make every reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the material presented. However, this publication does not replace the CPT codebook; it serves only as a guide.

©2020. American Medical Association. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without prior written permission of the publisher. CPT[®] is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.