pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE	NUMBER
May 18, 2021	November 2, 2020	01-20-10, 08-20-13, 09-20-09, 28-20-02, 31-20-10, 33-20-06

SUBJECT

Addition of COVID-19 Antigen Laboratory Test Codes to the MA Program Fee Schedule

BY

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IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISe to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISe-Enrollment.aspx.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin is to inform providers that the Department of Human Services (Department) has added two Coronavirus (COVID-19) antigen laboratory test codes to the MA Program Fee Schedule effective with dates of service on and after November 2, 2020.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to Hospital Based Medical Clinics/Emergency Rooms, Independent Medical/Surgical Clinics, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners, Independent Laboratories, Physicians, and Certified Nurse Midwives enrolled in the MA Program that provide services to MA beneficiaries, in the fee-for-service delivery system. Providers rendering services in the managed care delivery system should address any coding or billing questions to the appropriate MA managed care organization

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

On May 9, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the first emergency use authorization (EUA) for a COVID-19 rapid antigen test, a new category of tests for the use in the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. These tests are authorized for use in various laboratory settings certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA), 42 U.S.C.§263a, that meet the requirements to perform high, moderate, or waived complexity tests. Antigen tests were developed for use at the Point of

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:
https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx.

Care, i.e., in patient care settings operating under a CLIA Certificate of Waiver, Certificate of Compliance, or Certificate of Accreditation.

On June 26, 2020, the American Medical Association (AMA) announced the establishment of a new Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code intended for use as the industry standard for accurate reporting and tracking of antigen tests for the biomolecules produced by the COVID-19 virus. The Department added the laboratory test code to the MA Program Fee Schedule, effective with dates of services on and after November 2, 2020 as follows:

- CPT code 87426, defined as "Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g., SARS-CoV, SARSCoV-2 [COVID-19])"

On October 7, 2020, the AMA announced the approval of a new CPT code to efficiently report and track testing services related to COVID-19. The Department added the following laboratory test code to the MA Program Fee Schedule, effective with dates of services on and after November 2, 2020.

- CPT code 87811, defined as "Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (ie, visual) observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])"

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also provided interim guidance on rapid antigen testing for COVID-19: here.

PROCEDURE:

The Department added the two COVID-19 antigen laboratory test codes to the MA Program Fee Schedule as follows:

Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Provider Type/ Specialty	Place of Service/ Modifier	MA Fee	Limits	Prior Authorization Required
87426	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (e.g., SARS-CoV, SARSCoV-2 [COVID-19])	01/016 01/016 01/017 01/017 01/183 01/183 08/082 08/082 09/All 09/All 28/280 28/280 31/All 31/All 33/335 33/335	23 23/QW 23 23/QW 22 22/QW 49 49/QW 11 11/QW 81 81/QW 11 11/QW 11 11/QW	$34.94	1:1	No
87811	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (ie, visual) observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	01/016 01/016 01/017 01/017 01/183 01/183 08/082 08/082 09/All 09/All 28/280 28/280 31/All 31/All 33/335 33/335	23 23/QW 23 23/QW 22 22/QW 49 49/QW 11 11/QW 81 81/QW 11 11/QW 11 11/QW	$11.51	1:1	No

Providers are to bill, and the Department will pay, for COVID-19 laboratory testing as described above.

Information about the MA Program and coverage related to COVID-19 can be found on the Department's website here.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click here for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.