

Managed Care Operations Memorandum
General Operations
MCOPS Memo # 04/2020-008

Date: April 13, 2020

Subject: New ICD-10-CM Code for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

To: All Physical Health (PH) HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) – Statewide

From: Laurie Rock, Director, Bureau of Managed Care Operations

Purpose:

The Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) is issuing this Operations Memorandum to offer clarification on the use of ICD-10-CM during the COVID-19 emergency disaster.

Background:

On March 6, 2020, Governor Wolf issued an emergency [disaster declaration](#) in response to the presence of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Pennsylvania. Additionally, on March 11, 2020 COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. On March 13, 2020, a national emergency was declared in the United States concerning the COVID-19 outbreak.

Because of these developments, and the urgent need to capture the reporting of this condition in our nation’s claims and surveillance data, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the National Emergencies Act Sections 201 and 301, announced a change in the effective date of new diagnosis code U07.1, COVID-19, from October 1, 2020 to April 1, 2020. This off-cycle update is unprecedented and is an exception to the code set updating process established under HIPAA.

Discussion:

As a result of the CDC’s announcement, providers should use the new diagnosis code U07.1, COVID-19.

This announcement is an update to the CDC’s [official diagnosis coding guidance](#) issued on February 20, 2020, and subsequent [interim coding guidance](#) issued for health care encounters related to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) previously named 2019-nCoV.

This guidance is intended to be used in conjunction with the current ICD-10-CM classification and the [ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting \(effective October 1, 2019\)](#) and will be updated to reflect new clinical information as it becomes available.

Next Steps:

PH-MCOs should notify providers to begin utilizing ICD-10 code U07.1, COVID-19. PH-MCOs should bring their systems into alignment with the guidance described in this Operations Memorandum.

Obsolete:

This MC OPS Memo will remain in effect until it is superseded. OMAP may re-issue this OPS Memo as appropriate.