

ICD-10-CM Codes for Encounters Due to and Related to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- The ICD-10-CM codes provided in this document are intended to provide information on the coding of **COVID-19**.
- Other codes for conditions unrelated to coronavirus may be required to fully code these scenarios in accordance with the *ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting*.

Condition	ICD-10-CM Code Description	Code Also: ICD-10-CM Code
Bronchitis/Acute -confirmed as due to COVID-19	J20.8 -Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms	B97.29 -Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
Bronchitis/NOS -confirmed as due to COVID-19	J40 -Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic	
COVID-19 associated with a lower respiratory infection, NOS or an acute respiratory infection, NOS	J22 -Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection	
COVID-19 associated with respiratory infection NOS	J98.8 -Other specified respiratory disorders	
Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) due to COVID-19	J80 -Acute respiratory distress syndrome	
Pneumonia -confirmed as due to COVID-19	J12.89 -Other viral pneumonia	

Note: *Diagnosis code **B34.2, Coronavirus infection, unspecified**, would generally not be appropriate for the COVID-19, because the cases have universally been respiratory in nature, so the site would not be “unspecified.”*

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*Source: 2020 ICD-10-CM, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

**ICD-10-CM Codes for
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(COVID-19) (cont'd)**

Exposure to COVID-19

- Where there is a concern about a **possible exposure** to COVID-19, but this is ruled out after evaluation, it would be appropriate to assign ICD-10-CM code:
 - ✓ **Z03.818**- Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out.
- Where there is an **actual exposure** to someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19, it would be appropriate to assign the ICD-10-CM code:
 - ✓ **Z20.828**- Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases.

Signs and Symptoms Only

- For patients presenting with only signs/symptoms (such as fever, etc.), where a definitive diagnosis has not been established, assign the appropriate code(s) for each of the presenting signs and symptoms such as:
 - ✓ **R05**- Cough
 - ✓ **R06.02**- Shortness of breath
 - ✓ **R50.9**- Fever, unspecified

Uncertain Diagnosis

- If the documentation states COVID-19 is “suspected”, “possible” or “probable” do not assign code B97.29.
- Assign a code(s) explaining the reason for encounter (such as fever, or Z20.828).
- Follow ICD-10-CM Guidelines regarding Uncertain Diagnosis:

Do not code diagnoses documented as "probable", "suspected", "questionable", "rule out", "compatible with", "consistent with", "working diagnosis" or other similar terms indicating uncertainty. Rather, code the condition(s) to the highest degree of certainty for that encounter/visit, such as symptoms, signs, abnormal test results, or other reason for the visit.

Documentation must support and justify the medical necessity of the service(s) and procedure(s) provided and the code(s) utilized. Please check with individual payers for their policy.

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