

ICD-10-CM: COVID-19 CODING

In response to the public emergency declaration as a result of COVID-19, the World Health Organization (WHO) created a new ICD-10-CM code for the coronavirus on January 31, 2020. This code is **U07.1 (2019-nCoV Acute Respiratory Disease)**, and is effective as of April 1, 2020. This code is included in Chapter 22 on Codes for Special Purposes.

WHO has indicated in the ICD-10 classification that **U00-U49** are reserved for the provisional assignment of uncertain etiological conditions.

Understanding the instructions for using Code U07.1:

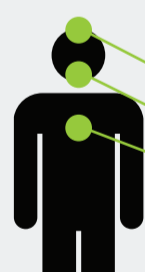
1. Used for confirmed COVID-19 cases.
2. Asymptomatic patients whose COVID-19 test was positive.
3. Use an additional code to identify pneumonia or other manifestations:
 - Other viral pneumonia (**J12.89**)
 - Acute bronchitis due to other specific organisms (**J20.8**)
 - Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection (**J22**)
 - Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic (**J40**)
 - Other specified respiratory disorders (**J98.8**)
 - Acute respiratory distress syndrome (**J80**)

Using other coding guidelines:

1. As of April 1, 2020, you must not assign **B97.29, Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere**.
2. It is not appropriate to use Code **B34.2, Coronavirus infection not specified by COVID-19**, given that in reported cases, the conditions have been respiratory, so the **unspecified** term is not correct.
3. Code **J12.81**, Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), not specified, must not be used.
4. Assign Code **Z11.59, Encounter for screening other viral diseases** for asymptomatic people being examined for COVID-19, with no known exposure to the virus, and the test results are unknown or negative.
5. To document COVID-19 in pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium for an incoming patient (or one who comes for a medical care encounter), assign a primary diagnosis of **O98.5- Other viral diseases complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium**, followed by Code **U07.1** and the appropriate codes for associated manifestations.
6. For cases where there is a concern about exposure to a person confirmed with COVID-19, but it is ruled out after an evaluation, assign diagnostic Code **Z03.818, Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out**.
7. For cases where there is a concern about exposure to a person confirmed with COVID-19, the contact must be coded with the following code: **Z20.828, Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases**.

For signs, symptoms and no definitive diagnosis:

- Cough (R05)
- Shortness of breath (R06.02)
- Fever, unspecified (R50.9)



Symptoms

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Difficulty breathing

Because there is not yet a specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19, medical care is focused on relieving symptoms and providing care and support.

Provider Education Unit

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References:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - o Announcement New ICD-10-CM Code 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm>
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/Announcement-New-ICD-code-for-coronavirus-3-18-2020.pdf>
 - o ICD-10-CM Official Coding and Reporting Guidelines
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm>
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/ICD-10-CM-Official-Coding-Guidance-Interim-Advice-coronavirus-feb-20-2020.pdf>
- ICD-10 monitor
<https://www.icd10monitor.com/covid-19-has-new-code-in-april>

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