Coding for COVID-19 Tests

Cue™ sells a molecular, Point of Care (POC) test for COVID-19 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 or SARS-CoV-2).

The Cue COVID-19 Test for CLIA Certified Healthcare Providers and Laboratories is a fast molecular diagnostic test that detects ribonucleic acid (RNA) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using isothermal nucleic acid amplification technology. The American Medical Association (AMA) established a new Category I CPT® code for COVID-19 tests using the amplified probe technique on March 13, 2020.[1] This new code may be suitable for use when billing for the Cue COVID-19 test:

> **87635 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique**

The AMA has provided CPT® Assistant guidance for using this new CPT® code.[2]

Coding Modifiers

QW. The CPT® code modifier QW is used to identify that a test is CLIA waived when billing Medicare by a laboratory with a CLIA Certificate of Waiver. Laboratories with a CLIA Certificate of Waiver should use the QW modifier when billing Medicare for the Cue COVID-19 test. The QW modifier for CPT® 87635 is effective for dates of service on/after March 20, 2020.[3] Medicare Administrative Contractors were instructed to update their systems by May 8, 2020. Laboratories with CLIA Certificates of Waiver may want to confirm with payors that they have updated their systems to accept these codes.

Coding Summary

Test	**CLIA**	**Payor**	**CPT® Coding**
Cue COVID-19 Test	Waived	Medicare*	87635QW
	Waived	Non-Medicare	87635
	Moderate	Any	

*And any other payor that requires QW Modifiers for Waived tests

If you have product specific questions, please contact your Cue Account Executive. For reimbursement inquiries, please complete the form at: https://cuehealth.com/healthcare-professional-diagnostics/

The Cue COVID-19 Test has not been FDA cleared or approved, but it has been authorized by the FDA under an emergency use authorization (EUA) for use by authorized laboratories and in professional point-of-care settings. The test has been authorized only for the detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2, not for any other viruses or pathogens, and is only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of in vitro diagnostic tests for detection and/or diagnosis of COVID-19 under Section 564(b)(1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)(1), unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

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1. https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/new-cpt-code-announced-report-novel-coronavirus-test
2. https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-03/cpt-assistant-guide-coronavirus.pdf
3. https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mm11765.pdf