

## COVID Billing Information Alert

August 13, 2020

### BACKGROUND

Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) is experiencing a significant increase of billing edits associated with incomplete submission of billing information on COVID-19 test orders. Resolving edits requires substantial effort for your practice and all involved. To avoid the issues that trigger an edit, we are providing key information and tips below for submitting a billable order for COVID-19 testing.

### TIPS FOR REDUCING BILLING EDITS:

1. For **ALL COVID TEST orders**, provide **full patient demographic** information including:

- First and last name (*middle initial if available*)
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Date of Service
- Address
- In addition, for **uninsured patients**, provide Social Security Number (SSN), State ID or Driver's License

2. To be eligible, **DIAGNOSIS CODE** information needs to include one of the following codes on the claim per HRSA:

Z03.818	Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out (possible exposure to COVID-19)
Z11.59	Encounter for screening for other viral diseases (asymptomatic)
Z20.828	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable (confirmed exposure to COVID-19)

3. For **INSURED PATIENTS**, be sure to provide **full insurance** information. Including:

- Insurance name
- Claims address
- Policy ID number
- Subscriber name (include Guarantor if applicable)

4. For **UNINSURED PATIENTS**, Human Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) has in place a COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement program. To qualify patients must fall under the **HRSA definition** of uninsured. Per HRSA, a patient is considered uninsured if the patient does not have coverage through an individual or employer-sponsored plan, a federal healthcare program, or the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program at the time the services were rendered.

Please note: Patients will not be charged directly for the COVID test (including balance billing) in accordance to the HRSA program.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For HRSA site: <https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim>

For CMS information: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

Thank you for your efforts on reducing these edits.

TO CONTACT PDL CALL OUR CLIENT SERVICES AT (805) 879-8100

Stewart W. Comer, MD FCAP Medical Director Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories