

October 4, 2021

Dear Valued Cotenant,

On October 15, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released an amended ruling (CMS 2020-1-R2). The ruling impacts reimbursement for high throughput COVID-19 testing.

What is changing?

In this ruling, CMS made changes to payment for U0003 and U0004. Effective January 1, 2021, these codes will reimburse at \$75.00 (instead of \$100).

CMS is instituting an add-on payment of \$25.00 which will be paid if the high throughput COVID-19 testing is resulted within 2 calendar days of collection. CMS has created a new HCPCS code that may be billed if both of the parameters discussed below are met.

- **U0005:** 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, CDC or non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies, completed within 2 calendar days from date and time of specimen collection. (List separately in addition to either HCPCS code U0003 or U0004).

Qualifying Parameters Required to Bill U0005

CMS will make an additional \$25 add-on payment to laboratories if they meet the following two requirements to bill for HCPCS code U0005:

1. Complete that specific COVID-19 test in 2 calendar days or less from the date of specimen collection, and
2. The majority (at least 51%) of their COVID-19 tests performed using high throughput technology in the previous calendar month were completed in 2 calendar days or less for all patients (not just Medicare).

Warde will provide aggregate laboratory high throughput COVID-19 test TAT for each previous month by the fourth day of the current month beginning January 4th, 2021. Warde will also provide each cotenant that sends us COVID testing a monthly TAT report, upon request. Requests should be directed to Warde's finance department at this e-mail address wardelabbilling@trinity-health.org

Warde's aggregate TAT for all COVID-19 tests collected in September 2021: 96% of all tests were verified in two calendar days or less from collection.

Sincerely,

Warde Medical Laboratory