

April 4, 2022

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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:wardelabbilling@trinity-health.org)

**Warde's aggregate TAT for all COVID-19 tests collected in March 2022: 99% of all tests were verified in two calendar days or less from collection.**

Sincerely,

**Warde Medical Laboratory**