

## **Coding Reminders for Coronavirus**

Coding for COVID-19 doesn't involve new codes or require learning new coding conventions.

Physicians should follow these current guidelines:

1. Code for confirmed conditions
2. Use the presenting coding in the first position on the claim form (pneumonia, bronchitis, etc.)
3. Use the code for coronavirus in the second position

### **Pneumonia, confirmed as due to COVID-19**

J12.89: other viral pneumonia

B97.29: other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

### **Acute bronchitis, confirmed as due to COVID-19**

J20.8: acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms

B97.29: other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

### **Bronchitis, not specified as chronic or acute, confirmed as due to COVID-19**

J40: bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic

B97.29: other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

### **Lower respiratory infection, confirmed as due to COVID-19**

J22: unspecified acute lower respiratory infection

B97.29: other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

or

J98.8: other specified respiratory infection

B97.29: other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

### **Cases with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), confirmed as due to COVID-19**

J80: acute respiratory distress syndrome

B97.29: other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

Other Reminders:

- If the physician has not confirmed the condition as being due to this new coronavirus, do not use B97.29. Use the condition (pneumonia, bronchitis, or symptom or symptoms such as cough, fever, shortness of breath) in the first position.
- If the patient has been exposed to someone who is confirmed to have had COVID-19, use Z20.828: contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases.
- If the COVID-19 virus is suspected but testing does not confirm that the patient has the disease, use the confirmed diagnosis such as bronchitis or assignment symptom such as cough, and add Z03.818: encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out.