



September 22, 2023

Re: Reimbursement update – Frequency limitation for COVID-19 laboratory services effective December 21, 2023

We routinely review our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies for potential updates. In that review, we take into consideration one or more of the following: evidence-based medicine, professional society recommendations, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, industry standards, and our other existing policies.

As a result of a recent review, we will update the Code Editing Policy & Guidelines to add 21 COVID-19 laboratory service codes. These services will be administratively denied when administered at a frequency greater than the medically unlikely edits set by CMS.

Denials will affect the claim line only and include administrative appeal rights. This update is effective for dates of service on or after December 21, 2023.

Additional information

For more information about the Code Editing Policy & Guidelines, visit the Cigna for Health Care Professionals website (CignaforHCP.com) > Resources > Clinical Reimbursement Policies and Payment Policies > Claim Editing Policies and Procedures > Code Editing Policy & Guidelines.

If you are not a registered user, please register so that you may log in and access all of our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies. To register, go to CignaforHCP.com and click Register. If you do not have Internet access or would like additional information, call Cigna Healthcare Customer Service at **800.88Cigna (882.4462)**.

Thank you for the care you provide to our customers.

Sincerely,

Julie B. Kessel, MD
Medical Officer for Coverage Policy
Clinical Performance & Quality Organization

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At a glance

- We will update the Code Editing Policy & Guidelines to add 21 COVID-19 laboratory service codes.
- These services will be administratively denied when administered at a frequency greater than the medically unlikely edits set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
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- For additional information, call Cigna Healthcare Customer Service at **800.88Cigna (882.4462)**.