

ED CODING & REIMBURSEMENT ALERT

Your practical adviser for ethically optimizing coding, payment, and efficiency in emergency medicine

Documentation | Compliance | Reimbursement

In this issue

Telehealth Coding

3 FAQs Lead You to Telehealth Coding Success

3

- ▶ Hint: Keep an eye on CMS' website to find out when adjusted rules subside.

Accounts Receivable

Boost Your ED's Income With These Solid A/R Tips

5

- ▶ Once you know if you have an A/R problem, you can consider the solutions.

You Be the Coder

5

- ▶ Can You Differentiate Traumatic, Spontaneous Hip Dislocations?

Reader Questions

Consider How to Code Anaphylaxis Injection

7

Not So Fast on Changing E/M Guidelines

7

Don't Differentiate ECG, EKG

7

How Should You Code Heat, Ice?

8

* Coronavirus Testing

Look to 2 New Codes for COVID-19 Antibody Tests

These codes were approved by the AMA on April 10 and went into effect immediately.

Emergency departments have two new coronavirus testing codes to use, thanks to an emergency meeting that the American Medical Association (AMA) held in early April. These two codes allow you to accurately code the performance of blood tests that detect antibodies associated with coronavirus.

“Antibody testing that identifies patients that have been exposed to the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and developed an immune response is likely to have important public health implications by providing a clearer picture of the prevalence of the disease in the US,” said AMA President **Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA**, in a news release about the new codes.

The new codes are:

- » **86328** (*Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease (COVID-19))*)
- » **86769** (*Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease (COVID-19))*)

Here's the difference: The first new code, 86328, describes antibody tests using a single-step method immunoassay. This often includes a strip with all the critical components for the assay, and is appropriate for a point of care platform, according to the AMA. If you perform antibody tests using a multiple-step method, you'll instead report 86769.

