**COVID-19**

**You Need to Know Codes for Coronavirus Cases: Here’s Why**

You could also be reporting 31500 quite often.

With many aspects of healthcare adopting an “all hands on deck” approach during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, some anesthesia providers have found themselves dealing with scenarios that are traditionally out of their norm: helping evaluate and treat patients in the emergency room or other locations. That means anesthesia providers and coders need to be familiar with any codes or modifiers related to COVID-19.

Here’s your quick primer on codes you might see and when you should report them (as of press time).

**Learn the New Testing Codes**

A new CPT® Category I code for testing patients for coronavirus went into effect March 13, 2020: 87635 (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).

**Caution:** Keep in mind that this is an early release code, which means you might need to manually upload the code descriptor into your electronic health record system.