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Newsletters

ANESTHESIA CODING ALERT

Your practical adviser for ethically optimizing coding, payment, and efficiency for anesthesia practices

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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.

