

From: [Call, Megan](#)
Subject: MLHPP Clinical Update: COVID-19 - Telemedicine Toolkit, Diagnosis Codes for Testing
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Attachments: [MLHC Telemedicine Toolkit 03272020b MLHPP.pdf](#)



MLH Physician Partners Clinical Update

March 28, 2020

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TOPICS	COVID-19 Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telemedicine Toolkit• Diagnosis Codes for Testing
Telemedicine Toolkit	Telemedicine Toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MLHC created a toolkit to guide implementation of telemedicine encounters (see attached)• Telemedicine may be utilized for patients who would benefit from a clinical interaction but do not require an in-person visit• Telemedicine encounters may consist of “audio-only” or “audio + video” interactions• Reimbursable telemedicine encounters generally take one of two forms<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Virtual office visit – same elements as usual visit, excluding those requiring in-person evaluation; may be conducted as “audio-only” or “audio + video”◦ Timed telephone calls – clinical discussion, billed based on “time” <u>spent talking to patient</u>; typically conducted as “audio-only”• Payers have variable coverage policies; see toolkit for MLHC-vetted CPT codes• Patients may be responsible for copayments / coinsurance payments if these codes are used• Provide indicated management even if patients decline a “billable” telemedicine encounter due to concerns about cost
Diagnosis Codes for Testing	Diagnosis Codes for Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing based on exposure to COVID-19: use Z20.828 – Exposure to 2019 novel coronavirus• Testing based on symptoms: use “symptom-based” codes (fever, shortness of breath, etc.)• Do NOT use “coronavirus” diagnoses – this implies patient has tested positive for COVID-19

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