

# New COVID-19 CPT Code 99072

On Tuesday, September 8, the AMA released new CPT code **99072** to be effective immediately. According to the [press release](#), the AMA approved this code in response to sweeping measures adopted by medical practices and health care organizations to stem the spread of COVID-19, while safely providing patients with access to high-quality care during in-person interactions with health care professionals.

**99072** Additional Supplies, material, and clinical staff time over and above those usually included in an office visit or other non-facility service(s), when performed during a Public Health Emergency (PHE) as defined by law, due to respiratory-transmitted infectious disease

The AMA published a [Special Edition CPT Assistant](#), which goes through the AMA guidelines for use of this code.

## Reporting Requirements

All of the following requirements must be met to report this service:

- It can be used only during the nationally mandated PHE time period;
- For use only for non-facility services (i.e., non-hospital);
- Must be an in-person provision of services; **(cannot be reported with telehealth, telephone, or other virtual services)**; and
- Can only be reported once per patient encounter per PIN regardless of the number of services rendered at that encounter.

## Coding Requirements

**99072** is reported for additional items required to support a safe, in-person provision of evaluation, treatment, or procedural service(s) and is intended to account for the additional time spent required by clinical staff to provide the service safely.

According to the AMA, this code captures the following practice expense items:

- Clinical staff time, over what is included in the primary service, to perform the following services:
  - Pre-visit phone call to screen the patient
  - Instructions on social distancing during visit
  - Check symptoms upon arrival
  - Application/removal of PPE
  - Additional cleaning of exam/procedure/imaging rooms, equipment, and supplies

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- Three surgical masks
- Additional quantities of cleaning supplies such as hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes, sprays, and cleaners

The AMA notes that if these activities are performed by a physician or other qualified provider, the requirements of this code will have been met, but the time spent should not be counted in any other time-based visit or service reported during the same encounter.

## **Documentation**

The AMA has not provided any documentation requirements to accompany this code assignment. They state that “documentation requirements may vary among third-party payers and insurers.”

## **Reimbursement**

The AMA noted that it has submitted recommendations to CMS to “inform payment” of the new CPT code. However, currently there is no information from CMS or other payers regarding fee or reimbursement for this service.