



Addition of the Shared System CWF to the Business Requirements for the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes U0002QW and 87635QW Mentioned in Change Request 11765

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Related Change Request (CR) Number: 12294

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Related CR Transmittal Number:
R10798OTN

Implementation Date: July 6, 2021 - (fast tracked-May 10, 2021)

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters Article is for laboratories that bill Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for COVID-19 testing services provided to Medicare patients.

What You Need to Know

This article tells you about a revision to [CR 11765](#) that requires changes to Medicare's Common Working File (CWF) for HCPCS codes U0002QW and 87635QW. All other information in CR 11765 is unchanged and there shouldn't be any impact on you.

Background

The [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\) regulations](#) require a facility to be appropriately certified for each test performed. To make sure that Medicare & Medicaid only pay for laboratory tests done in certified facilities, CMS systems edit each claim for a HCPCS code that we consider a CLIA laboratory test at the CLIA certificate level.

[CR 11765](#) added the QW modifier to HCPCS codes U0002 [2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC] and 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]. But we didn't include the CWF in the Business Requirements of CR 11765. CR 12294 adds the CWF to the requirements for HCPCS codes U0002 and 87635.

MACs will let you use codes U0002QW and 87635QW for claims you send with a valid, current

CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after March 20, 2020.

More Information

We issued [CR 12294](#) to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, contact your [MAC](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
May 20, 2021	Initial article released.

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