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SPECIAL EDITION: May Update

Infectious Disease Testing for Bacterial or Viral Respiratory Tract Infection

The American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]) Editorial Panel continues to address the rapidly evolving laboratory testing for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The Panel has established a new proprietary laboratory analysis (PLA) code to describe a nucleic acid respiratory pathogen panel that includes SARS-CoV-2 as one of the specified targets of the panel. PLA codes describe proprietary clinical laboratory analysis tests that can be provided either by a sole-source laboratory or licensed or marketed to multiple providing laboratories that are cleared or approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The AMA expedited the publication of this new PLA code to the AMA website on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt/covid-19-coding-and-guidance>.

The new code describes a multiplex amplified probe test that provides qualitative identification of multiple respiratory viral and bacterial pathogens from a single specimen obtained using nasopharyngeal swabs. The test contains nucleic acid targets for iden-

tifying 22 specific respiratory pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2. The full list of targeted microorganisms includes the following:

- Adenovirus
- Coronavirus 229E
- Coronavirus HKU1
- Coronavirus NL63
- Coronavirus OC43
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
- Human rhinovirus/enterovirus
- Human metapneumovirus
- Influenza A (subtype) H3
- Influenza A (subtype) H1

continued on next page

- Influenza A (subtype) H1-2009
- Influenza A
- Influenza B
- Parainfluenza virus 1
- Parainfluenza virus 2
- Parainfluenza virus 3
- Parainfluenza virus 4
- Respiratory syncytial virus
- Bordetella parapertussis (IS1001)
- Bordetella pertussis (ptxP)
- Chlamydia pneumoniae
- Mycoplasma pneumoniae

New code 0202U is **effective immediately** for reporting this laboratory test. Note, code 0202U is not included in the CPT 2020 code set, but it will be included in the Proprietary Laboratory Analyses subsection of the Pathology and Laboratory section of the CPT 2021 code set.

Proprietary Laboratory Analyses

- **0202U** Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected

In addition to listing code 0202U in the Pathology and Laboratory section, PLA codes are also included in Appendix O in the CPT code set with the procedure's proprietary name. To report a PLA code, the analysis performed must fulfill the code descriptor and must be the test represented by the proprietary name listed in Appendix O. Code 0202U will be listed in Appendix O as follows:

| Proprietary Name and Clinical Laboratory or Manufacturer | Alpha-Numeric Code | Code Descriptor |
|---|--------------------|--|
| BioFire® Respiratory Panel 2.1 (RP2.1), BioFire® Diagnostics, BioFire® Diagnostics, LLC | ● 0202U | Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection), pathogen-specific nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), 22 targets including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), qualitative RT-PCR, nasopharyngeal swab, each pathogen reported as detected or not detected |

The following clinical example and procedural description reflect the typical clinical scenario for which code 0202U would be appropriately reported. *Due to the recent development of these tests, clinical indications are subject to further refinement as knowledge about the test's applicability to the novel coronavirus evolves. The CPT Editorial Panel will continue to review and may clarify these indications as more information becomes available.*

Clinical Example (0202U)

An 81-year-old female presents to her primary care physician with congestion, cough, and difficulty breathing. The physician orders a molecular syndromic respiratory panel.

Description of Procedure (0202U)

A sample of the patient's nasopharyngeal-swab specimen is placed in transport media and then added into the BioFire® Respiratory Panel 2.1 reagent pouch and analyzed. A report listing each pathogen as either "detected" or "not detected" is reviewed and reported to the ordering physician.

Stay informed and updated with the AMA on the coronavirus COVID-19 by visiting the AMA website at <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-2019-novel-coronavirus-resource-center-physicians>.

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The *CPT Assistant* Special Edition information is designed to provide accurate, up-to-date coding information. We continue to make every reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the material presented. However, this publication does not replace the CPT codebook; it serves only as a guide.

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