New CPT Code Announced for NOVEL CORONAVIRUS Testing

On March 13, the AMA and the CPT Editorial Panel announced creation of a new CPT code that is intended to streamline data collection and resource allocation in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The new code and descriptor are:

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

The code is effective immediately for use in reporting of tests for the novel coronavirus across the nation’s health care system. In addition to the long descriptor, CPT code 87635 has short and medium descriptors that can be accessed on the AMA website.