



COVID-19, TELEMEDICINE, & YOUR TRIBE

Indigenous Pact Offers Support to Tribal Health Facilities

Indigenous PACT is here to provide support and information for healthcare leaders serving Tribal populations. You can access resources right now at our Indian Country COVID-19 Support Center. Or, read on to find additional information applicable to telemedicine and billing & coding during this time.

With social distancing orders in effect across the nation, more patients are taking advantage of *telemedicine* & *telehealth* to meet with healthcare providers. Demand for these services is at all-time highs.

Telemedicine is HIPPA-compliant and interactive audio & video, allowing patients with regularly scheduled appointments to continue getting the care they need and enables a practitioner to deliver covered services to remote patients.

Telehealth is similar though takes place over non-HIPPA compliant platforms like phone or FaceTime. Patients must be informed when using non-HIPPA-compliant technology. Many Health Care Authorities in the U.S. are allowing telehealth appointments when face-to-face is not an option.

Even with virtual appointments increasing during the pandemic, the number of cases of individual testing for the SARS-CoV2 virus (which causes COVID-19) continue to rise. For a better understanding of your area's public health outlook, please visit The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation COVID-19 Projections page.

Indigenous PACT is ready to help you adapt to healthcare needs during this evolving situation. We have included **a free resource page** below to help clients and other parties with knowledge gained from We Care Daily Clinics' ongoing operations.

Indigenous PACT also offers revenue cycle management services to help your Tribal healthcare operations process under heightening stress and stay on top of billing and coding demands.

Contact us for more information about revenue cycle management.

COVID-19 / CORONAVIRUS BILLING AND CODING GUIDE

Print this page to assist with billing and coding for high demand services. The following information is derived from the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) for Medicare/Medicaid in WA state.

Note: Other HCAs or commercial carriers may require different codes and modifiers for billing purposes.

For these services; maintain documentation of the appointment date and start/stop time, client and providers' locations, whether using telemedicine or telehealth technology, client consent a brief summary of appt., and reason for using virtual appt.

BILLING CODES FOR COVID-19 EVALUATION AND TESTING

Testing for COVID-19 (use HCPCS codes)

- » U0001 for CDC testing laboratories to test patients for SARS-CoV-2
- » U0002 for non-CDC testing laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCov (COVID-19)

Note: These are lab tests and will be coded like the other lab tests as not encounter eligible.

Collecting COVID-19 Test Sample (E/M codes)

- » 99211 for established patients only
- » 99000 for the handling and/or conveyance of specimen for transfer from the office to a laboratory (fee for this is bundled into 99211 but it should still be reported on the claim form)
- » T1015 to receive the encounter rate for 99211
- » (99212-99215), depending on documentation, if a COVID-19 testing appointment requires direct MD/NP/PA care

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes (Exposure to COVID-19)

- » Z03.818 - (Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out.) For cases where exposure to COVID-19 is a concern, but ruled out after evaluation
- » Z20.828 (Contact with and [suspected] exposure to other viral communicable diseases). For use when someone is suspected of having COVID-19 but is asymptomatic
- » Z71.89 (Other specified counseling). When a patient is asymptomatic but wants the test anyway.

Signs and symptoms

Code patients presenting with signs/symptoms for when a definitive diagnosis has not been established,

- » R05 - Cough
- » R06.02 - Shortness of breath
- » R50.9 - Fever, unspecified
- » R6.89 - Other general symptom and signs when a patient has been exposed to the virus

FOR TELEMEDICINE SUD (Substance Use Disorder) SERVICES

- » Code H0001 for SUD Assessment,
- » Code H0004 for Individual Therapy
- » Code 96164, 96165 for Group Therapy
- » Code H0038 for Peer Service

Note: For all above services code Modifier(s) as HF + GT + CR and Place of Service as 02. All services are encounter eligible so include T1015. *CR indicates service was disaster/catastrophe related.*

FOR TELEHEALTH SUD SERVICES

- » Code H0001 for SUD Assessment,
- » Code H0004 for Individual Therapy
- » Code 96164, 96165 for Group Therapy
- » Code H0038 for Peer Service

Note: For all above services code Modifier(s) as HF + CR and Place of Service as 12. All services are encounter eligible so include T1015. Telehealth formats qualify for the HIS encounter rate, pending approval from CMS and retroactive from 1/1/2020.