

CPT® Category I Pathology and Laboratory Codes for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])

Most recent changes to this long descriptor document:

- Revision of code 86318, addition of two Category I Pathology and Laboratory codes (86328, 86769), revision of guidelines, and the addition of three parenthetical notes following codes 86328, 86635, and 86769 accepted at the April 2020 CPT Editorial Panel meeting.

*Note that code 86769 will be a child code under parent code 86710. It is represented here as the full long descriptor including the language from parent code 86710.

It is important to note that further CPT Editorial Panel or Executive Committee actions may affect these codes and/or descriptors. For this reason, code numbers and/or descriptor language in the CPT code set may differ at the time of publication. In addition, further Panel actions may result in gaps in code number sequencing.

The following code was accepted at the March 2020 CPT Editorial Panel meeting for the 2021 CPT production cycle. This code is effective immediately on March 13, 2020. *Note that code 87635 will be a child code under parent code 87471. It is represented here as the full long descriptor including the language from parent code 87471.

Code	Long Code Descriptor	Released to AMA website	Effective	Publication
●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	March 13, 2020	March 13, 2020	CPT® 2021

The following codes, guidelines, and parenthetical notes were accepted and/or revised at the April 2020 CPT Editorial Panel meeting for the 2021 CPT production cycle. The codes, guidelines, and parenthetical notes are effective immediately on April 10, 2020.

▲86318	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (eg, reagent strip)	April 10, 2020	April 10, 2020	CPT® 2021
#●86328	severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) ▶(For severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2] [Coronavirus disease {COVID-19}] antibody testing using multiple-step method, use 86769)◀	April 10, 2020	April 10, 2020	CPT® 2021

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	<p>►The following codes (86602-86804) are qualitative or semiquantitative immunoassays performed by multiple-step methods for the detection of antibodies to infectious agents. For immunoassays by single-step method (eg, reagent strips), use see codes 86318, 86328. Procedures for the identification of antibodies should be coded as precisely as possible. For example, an antibody to a virus could be coded with increasing specificity for virus, family, genus, species, or type. In some cases, further precision may be added to codes by specifying the class of immunoglobulin being detected. When multiple tests are done to detect antibodies to organisms classified more precisely than the specificity allowed by available codes, it is appropriate to code each as a separate service. For example, a test for antibody to an enterovirus is coded as 86658. Coxsackie viruses are enteroviruses, but there are no codes for the individual species of enterovirus. If assays are performed for antibodies to coxsackie A and B species, each assay should be separately coded. Similarly, if multiple assays are performed for antibodies of different immunoglobulin classes, each assay should be coded separately. When a coding option exists for reporting IgM specific antibodies (eg, 86632), the corresponding nonspecific code (eg, 86631) may be reported for performance of either an antibody analysis not specific for a particular immunoglobulin class or for an IgG analysis. ◀</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(For the detection of antibodies other than those to infectious agents, see specific antibody [eg, 86021-86023, 86376, 86800, 86850-86870] or specific method [eg, 83516, 86255, 86256]).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(For infectious agent/antigen detection, see 87260-87899)</p>			
		<p>Revised Guidelines Added to AMA Website</p> <p>April 10, 2020</p>	<p>Revised Guidelines Effective</p> <p>April 10, 2020</p>	<p>Revised Guidelines Publication</p> <p>CPT® 2021</p>
86602	Antibody; actinomyces			
86635	Coccidioides			
	<p>►(For severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2] [Coronavirus disease {COVID-19}] antibody testing, see 86328, 86769) ◀</p>	<p>Parenthetical Note Added to AMA Website</p> <p>April 10, 2020</p>	<p>Parenthetical Note Effective</p> <p>April 10, 2020</p>	<p>Parenthetical Note Publication</p> <p>CPT® 2021</p>



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●86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) ▶(For severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2] [Coronavirus disease {COVID-19}] antibody testing using single step method, use 86328)◀	April 10, 2020	April 10, 2020	CPT® 2021
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