



CLINICAL MEDICAL POLICY	
Policy Name:	Respiratory Pathogen Panel Testing (L38916)
Policy Number:	MP-107-MC-PA
Responsible Department(s):	Medical Management
Provider Notice/Issue Date:	08/31/2026
Effective Date:	11/01/2026
Next Annual Review:	11/2027
Implementation Date:	04/15/2026
Products:	Pennsylvania Medicare Assured
Application:	All participating and nonparticipating practitioners and facilities unless contractually precluded
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Policy History

Date	Activity
11/01/2026	Provider Effective date
04/15/2026	QI/UM Committee review
04/15/2026	Policy initially developed

Disclaimer

Highmark WholecareSM medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

Policy Statement

Highmark WholecareSM may provide coverage under the medical-surgical benefits of the Company's Medicare products for medically necessary respiratory infection pathogen panel (RIPP) molecular testing.

This policy is designed to address medical necessity guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness, or condition. Each person's unique clinical circumstances warrant individual consideration, based upon review of applicable medical records.

Procedures

1. Please review the specific National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), and/or Local Coverage Article (LCA) information, as well as other CMS sources, using the links below.
2. Post-payment Audit Statement
The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by Highmark WholecareSM at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.
3. Place of Service
Please refer to the NCD, LCD, LCA, or CMS guidelines for the place of service for XXXXXX.

Coverage Determination and Links

Highmark WholecareSM follows the coverage determinations made by CMS as outlined in either the NCD or state-specific LCD/LCA.

CMS Link

- [CMS Website](#)

NCD/LCD Links

- There are no current NCDs related to this topic.
- LCD: [Respiratory Pathogen Panel Testing \(L38916\)](#)

Article Links

- LCA: [Billing and Coding: Respiratory Pathogen Panel Testing \(A58575\)](#)

Reference Sources

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Respiratory Pathogen Panel Testing (L38916). Original Effective date July 11, 2021. Accessed on March 24, 2026.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Article (LCA) Billing and Coding: Respiratory Pathogen Panel Testing (A58575). Original Effective date July 11, 2021. Revision Effective date January 1, 2026. Accessed on March 24, 2026.

Coding Requirements

Procedure Codes

CPT Code	Description
87428	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay technique, (eg, enzyme immunoassay [EIA], enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], fluorescence immunoassay [FIA], immunochemiluminometric assay [IMCA]) qualitative or semiquantitative; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (eg, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B
87631	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 3-5 targets
87636	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B, multiplex amplified probe technique
87637	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), influenza virus types A and B, and respiratory syncytial virus, multiplex amplified probe technique
87812*	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (ie, visual) observation; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) and influenza virus types A and B
87913*	Infectious agent genotype analysis by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), mutation identification in targeted region(s)

*These codes require approval from a Medical Director on a case-by-case basis.

Diagnosis Codes

ICD-10 Code	Description
B97.29	Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
D80.0	Hereditary hypogammaglobulinemia
D80.1	Nonfamilial hypogammaglobulinemia
D80.2	Selective deficiency of immunoglobulin A [IgA]
D80.3	Selective deficiency of immunoglobulin G [IgG] subclasses
D80.4	Selective deficiency of immunoglobulin M [IgM]
D80.5	Immunodeficiency with increased immunoglobulin M [IgM]
D80.6	Antibody deficiency with near-normal immunoglobulins or with hyperimmunoglobulinemia
D80.8	Other immunodeficiencies with predominantly antibody defects
D81.0	Severe combined immunodeficiency [SCID] with reticular dysgenesis
D81.1	Severe combined immunodeficiency [SCID] with low T- and B-cell numbers
D81.2	Severe combined immunodeficiency [SCID] with low or normal B-cell numbers
D81.31	Severe combined immunodeficiency due to adenosine deaminase deficiency
D81.32	Adenosine deaminase 2 deficiency
D81.39	Other adenosine deaminase deficiency

D81.4	Nezelof's syndrome
D81.5	Purine nucleoside phosphorylase [PNP] deficiency
D81.6	Major histocompatibility complex class I deficiency
D81.7	Major histocompatibility complex class II deficiency
D81.810	Biotinidase deficiency
D81.818	Other biotin-dependent carboxylase deficiency
D81.89	Other combined immunodeficiencies
D82.0	Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
D82.1	Di George's syndrome
D82.2	Immunodeficiency with short-limbed stature
D82.3	Immunodeficiency following hereditary defective response to Epstein-Barr virus
D82.4	Hyperimmunoglobulin E [IgE] syndrome
D82.8	Immunodeficiency associated with other specified major defects
D83.0	Common variable immunodeficiency with predominant abnormalities of B-cell numbers and function
D83.1	Common variable immunodeficiency with predominant immunoregulatory T-cell disorders
D83.2	Common variable immunodeficiency with autoantibodies to B- or T-cells
D83.8	Other common variable immunodeficiencies
D84.0	Lymphocyte function antigen-1 [LFA-1] defect
D84.1	Defects in the complement system
D89.0	Polyclonal hypergammaglobulinemia
D89.1	Cryoglobulinemia
D89.2	Hypergammaglobulinemia, unspecified
D89.3	Immune reconstitution syndrome
D89.41	Monoclonal mast cell activation syndrome
D89.42	Idiopathic mast cell activation syndrome
D89.43	Secondary mast cell activation
D89.49	Other mast cell activation disorder
D89.810	Acute graft-versus-host disease
D89.811	Chronic graft-versus-host disease
D89.812	Acute on chronic graft-versus-host disease
D89.82	Autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome [ALPS]
D89.89	Other specified disorders involving the immune mechanism, not elsewhere classified
E84.0	Cystic fibrosis with pulmonary manifestations
E84.19	Cystic fibrosis with other intestinal manifestations
E84.8	Cystic fibrosis with other manifestations
I27.0	Primary pulmonary hypertension
I27.21	Secondary pulmonary arterial hypertension
I27.22	Pulmonary hypertension due to left heart disease
I27.23	Pulmonary hypertension due to lung diseases and hypoxia
I27.24	Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension
I27.29	Other secondary pulmonary hypertension
I27.81	Cor pulmonale (chronic)
I27.82	Chronic pulmonary embolism
I27.83	Eisenmenger's syndrome

I27.89	Other specified pulmonary heart diseases
I50.21	Acute systolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.22	Chronic systolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.23	Acute on chronic systolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.31	Acute diastolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.32	Chronic diastolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.33	Acute on chronic diastolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.41	Acute combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.42	Chronic combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.43	Acute on chronic combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.811	Acute right heart failure
I50.812	Chronic right heart failure
I50.813	Acute on chronic right heart failure
I50.814	Right heart failure due to left heart failure
I50.82	Biventricular heart failure
I50.83	High output heart failure
I50.84	End stage heart failure
I50.89	Other heart failure
J00	Acute nasopharyngitis [common cold]
J02.9	Acute pharyngitis, unspecified
J04.0	Acute laryngitis
J04.10	Acute tracheitis without obstruction
J04.11	Acute tracheitis with obstruction
J04.2	Acute laryngotracheitis
J04.30	Supraglottitis, unspecified, without obstruction
J04.31	Supraglottitis, unspecified, with obstruction
J05.0	Acute obstructive laryngitis [croup]
J05.10	Acute epiglottitis without obstruction
J05.11	Acute epiglottitis with obstruction
J06.0	Acute laryngopharyngitis
J06.9	Acute upper respiratory infection, unspecified
J09.X1	Influenza due to identified novel influenza A virus with pneumonia
J09.X2	Influenza due to identified novel influenza A virus with other respiratory manifestations
J09.X3	Influenza due to identified novel influenza A virus with gastrointestinal manifestations
J09.X9	Influenza due to identified novel influenza A virus with other manifestations
J10.1	Influenza due to other identified influenza virus with other respiratory manifestations
J12.0	Adenoviral pneumonia
J12.3	Human metapneumovirus pneumonia
J12.81	Pneumonia due to SARS-associated coronavirus
J12.82**	Pneumonia due to coronavirus disease 2019
J12.89	Other viral pneumonia
J12.9	Viral pneumonia, unspecified
J15.8	Pneumonia due to other specified bacteria
J16.8	Pneumonia due to other specified infectious organisms

J18.0	Bronchopneumonia, unspecified organism
J18.1	Lobar pneumonia, unspecified organism
J18.2	Hypostatic pneumonia, unspecified organism
J18.8	Other pneumonia, unspecified organism
J18.9	Pneumonia, unspecified organism
J20.8	Acute bronchitis due to other specified organisms
J22	Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
J41.0	Simple chronic bronchitis
J41.1	Mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
J41.8	Mixed simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
J43.0	Unilateral pulmonary emphysema [MacLeod's syndrome]
J43.1	Panlobular emphysema
J43.2	Centrilobular emphysema
J43.8	Other emphysema
J44.0	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with (acute) lower respiratory infection
J44.1	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with (acute) exacerbation
J45.21	Mild intermittent asthma with (acute) exacerbation
J45.22	Mild intermittent asthma with status asthmaticus
J45.30	Mild persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.31	Mild persistent asthma with (acute) exacerbation
J45.32	Mild persistent asthma with status asthmaticus
J45.40	Moderate persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.41	Moderate persistent asthma with (acute) exacerbation
J45.42	Moderate persistent asthma with status asthmaticus
J45.50	Severe persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.51	Severe persistent asthma with (acute) exacerbation
J45.52	Severe persistent asthma with status asthmaticus
J45.991	Unspecified asthma with (acute) exacerbation
J45.998	Other asthma
J47.0	Bronchiectasis with acute lower respiratory infection
J47.1	Bronchiectasis with (acute) exacerbation
J47.9	Bronchiectasis, uncomplicated
J60	Coalworker's pneumoconiosis
J61	Pneumoconiosis due to asbestos and other mineral fibers
J62.0	Pneumoconiosis due to talc dust
J62.8	Pneumoconiosis due to other dust containing silica
J63.0	Aluminosis (of lung)
J63.1	Bauxite fibrosis (of lung)
J63.2	Berylliosis
J63.3	Graphite fibrosis (of lung)
J63.4	Siderosis
J63.5	Stannosis
J63.6	Pneumoconiosis due to other specified inorganic dusts
J65	Pneumoconiosis associated with tuberculosis

J66.0	Byssinosis
J66.1	Flax-dressers' disease
J66.2	Cannabinosis
J66.8	Airway disease due to other specific organic dusts
J70.1	Chronic and other pulmonary manifestations due to radiation
J70.3	Chronic drug-induced interstitial lung disorders
J81.1	Chronic pulmonary edema
J84.10	Pulmonary fibrosis, unspecified
J84.111	Idiopathic interstitial pneumonia, not otherwise specified
J84.112	Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
J84.113	Idiopathic non-specific interstitial pneumonitis
J84.114	Acute interstitial pneumonitis
J84.115	Respiratory bronchiolitis interstitial lung disease
J84.116	Cryptogenic organizing pneumonia
J84.117	Desquamative interstitial pneumonia
J84.170	Interstitial lung disease with progressive fibrotic phenotype in diseases classified elsewhere
J84.178	Other interstitial pulmonary diseases with fibrosis in diseases classified elsewhere
J84.2	Lymphoid interstitial pneumonia
J84.81	Lymphangioleiomyomatosis
J84.82	Adult pulmonary Langerhans cell histiocytosis
J84.89	Other specified interstitial pulmonary diseases
J84.9	Interstitial pulmonary disease, unspecified
R04.2	Hemoptysis
R05.1	Acute cough
R05.2	Subacute cough
R06.02	Shortness of breath
R06.03	Acute respiratory distress
R06.1	Stridor
R06.2	Wheezing
R06.82	Tachypnea, not elsewhere classified
R07.1	Chest pain on breathing
R07.81	Pleurodynia
R09.02	Hypoxemia
R09.1	Pleurisy
R43.0	Anosmia
R43.9	Unspecified disturbances of smell and taste
R50.81	Fever presenting with conditions classified elsewhere
R50.9	Fever, unspecified
R53.1	Weakness
R55	Syncope and collapse
R68.83	Chills (without fever)
R79.81	Abnormal blood-gas level
Z03.818	Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out
Z20.822	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19

Z20.828	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases
U07.1*	COVID-19

**J12.82 must be reported with U07.1*

Non-Covered Procedure Codes

CPT Code	Description
87632	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 6-11 targets
87633	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); respiratory virus (eg, adenovirus, influenza virus, coronavirus, metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 12-25 targets
0115U	Respiratory infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA and RNA), 18 viral types and subtypes and 2 bacterial targets, amplified probe technique, including multiplex reverse transcription for RNA targets, each analyte reported as detected or not detected
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
0223U	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
0225U	Infectious disease (bacterial or viral respiratory tract infection) pathogen-specific DNA and RNA, 21 targets, including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), amplified probe technique, including multiplex reverse transcription for RNA targets, each analyte reported as detected or not detected

Reimbursement

Participating facilities will be reimbursed per their Highmark WholecareSM contract.