

Special Bulletin

For professional and facility providers

April 10, 2024

Reimbursement Changes for Respiratory Panels that Test for 5 or More Pathogens

Highmark is committed to ensuring members receive appropriate care based on well-established, evidence-based clinical guidelines that result in better outcomes and lower costs. To promote medically necessary and cost-efficient patient care, Highmark is reducing the reimbursement for respiratory pathogen panels that check for the presence of 5 or more pathogens, **effective July 1, 2024**.

Respiratory pathogen panels that test for **fewer** than 5 pathogens are effective for detecting three of the most common respiratory infections — COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and influenza — while also being less expensive.

Coding Information

No reimbursement changes are occurring for respiratory pathogen panels (fewer than 5 pathogens) represented by these two codes: **87637** and **0241U**.

The following four codes for respiratory pathogen panels (5 or more pathogens) will be affected by this reduction in reimbursement: 0202U BioFire, 0223U, 0225U, and 0373U. These four codes will be reimbursed at the rates for codes **87637** and **0241U**.

Note: *This reimbursement change does not apply to New York providers or providers with unique fee arrangements.*

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