



Payment for COVID-19 Counseling

PAs and other eligible healthcare providers paid to counsel Medicare patients about the importance of self-isolation after COVID-19 testing while awaiting results.

Payment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is available for COVID-19 counseling to support patient education and isolation in preventing the spread of Coronavirus. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention modeling [shows](#) early isolation can reduce transmission by up to 86%. Providers can counsel patients to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Counseling includes an explanation of the immediate need for isolation among symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals while awaiting COVID-19 test results. Clinicians should review the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 with the patient and discuss services that may help them isolate at home while awaiting results and if results are positive. Patients should be advised that if the COVID-19 test is positive, they will likely be contacted by a public health worker for contact tracing and are encouraged to 'answer the call'. Counseling can also include recommendations for testing of immediate contacts within the household.

Key Takeaways

- Educating people about the need to self-isolate can significantly reduce the spread of Coronavirus
- CMS will use existing evaluation and management payment codes to reimburse eligible providers
- CMS has a [Counseling Checklist](#), including resource links, to aid clinicians

How to Bill for Counseling Services

Eligible practitioners furnishing COVID-19 counseling services to people with Original Medicare should use existing and applicable evaluation and management (E/M) codes (e.g. 99211-99215). When furnishing these services during 2020, counseling and/or coordination of care is considered the key or controlling factor to qualify for a particular level of E/M services. Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicaid programs may have different payment policies.

Additional Resources

[Provider Counseling Q&A](#)

[Provider Counseling Talking Points](#)

[Provider Counseling Checklist](#)

[Handout for Patients](#)