

08/14/2025

DA NEWS BLAST

CPT CODE 0241U

CPT Code 0241 U refers to a proprietary laboratory analysis (PLA) code for an infectious disease (viral respiratory tract infection) test that detects four targets: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2), Influenza A, Influenza B, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) from an upper respiratory specimen.

Here's a breakdown of its key aspects:

- What it tests for: This test identifies the RNA of four specific pathogens: SARS-CoV-2 (which causes COVID-19), influenza A, influenza B and RSV
- Methodology: The assay uses polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology, and the example provided specifies the GeneXpert Xpress System.
- Specimen Type: The test requires an upper respiratory tract infection by simultaneously identifying these common viral pathogens, which can present with similar symptoms.

Billing and Coverage:

- It is important to note that CPT code 0241U was replaced by CPT code 87637 as of July 01, 2025. CPT Code 87637 also describes a test for SARS-CoV-2, influenza A and B, and RSV using a multiplex amplified probe technique.
- When using this code (prior to its deletion), a single unit of service was reported regardless of the number of pathogens detected or targets included in the panel.
- For Medicare claims related to point-of-care testing under a CLIA certificate of Waiver, the QW modifier needs to be appended to the code.
- Specific ICD-10-CM codes are required to establish medical necessity for Medicare coverage.
- Medicare coverage might not apply to all instances of COVID-19 testing, depending on established guidelines.

NOTE: Always consult the most current official codebook and relevant payer guidelines for the latest coding and billing information.