

Influenza Testing Reimbursement

MVP Health Care® (MVP) encourages health care providers to follow the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when assessing patients with influenza-like illness in the outpatient setting. The diagnosis of influenza remains largely a clinical diagnosis. Confirmation of influenza virus by diagnostic testing is not required for decisions to prescribe antiviral medication. Decision-making about treatment and disposition should be based upon signs and symptoms consistent with influenza illness and epidemiologic factors. Additional considerations regarding influenza testing can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/consider-influenza-testing.htm>.

Office-based rapid influenza testing may be used to inform decisions on use of antiviral treatment, antibiotic treatment, need for further diagnostic tests, consideration for home care, or on recommendations for ill persons living with others who are at high-risk for influenza complications. In order to support diagnostic capacity in the office setting for these less common situations, as of January 1, 2020, the following tests are being reimbursed:

- Immunoassay for influenza (CPT code 87804)
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for influenza (CPT codes 87501 and 87502)