

January 31, 2022

## UPDATE TO COVID-19 TESTING BILLING

Beginning January 3, 2022, HHSC is requiring providers to include modifier **QW** when billing for the COVID-19 procedure code **86328** for dates of service on or after September 23, 2020.

### Procedure Codes Requiring Modifier QW

86328
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**Action:** All MCOs have until **March 25, 2022** to automatically reprocess procedure code 86328 claims submitted with modifier QW with dates of service on or after September 23, 2020 for appropriate payment. Providers may receive an additional payment but are not required to appeal the claims unless they are denied for other reasons after the claims reprocessing is complete.

**Additional Information:** The QW modifier is a CLIA guidelines requirement for specific procedure codes based on their complexity and must be included on claims that have CLIA-waived procedure codes. Providers must have the required CLIA certification on file, and must use the QW modifier when it is required. Claims will be denied if the QW modifier is not present on applicable CLIA-waived tests.

**Important:** Providers must refer to the [CMS CLIA website](#) for information about CLIA-waived tests, provider certifications, and billing requirements.

**Resources:** <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mm12557-addition-qw-modifier-healthcare-common-procedure-coding-system-hcpcs-code-86328.pdf>