

U06.0 Emergency use of U06.0 [COVID-19, ruled out]

Assignment of U06.0 Emergency use of U06.0 [COVID-19, ruled out] for admitted episodes of care (including Hospital in the Home)

The assignment of U06.0 *Emergency use of U06.0 [COVID-19, ruled out]* as dependent on two key criteria as noted in Admitted care FAQ – Part 3 (published 17 September 2020):

- **when** the patient is tested for COVID-19
- test result is negative.

If the test for COVID-19 is performed **prior to formal or statistical admission**, and the results of the test are negative, then U06.0 *Emergency use of U06.0 [COVID-19, ruled out]* cannot be assigned for any related admitted episode of care.

This advice is informed by national coding advice published by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA):

<https://www.ihsa.gov.au/what-we-do/how-to-classify-covid-19>

Below are some scenarios that may assist in determining if U06.0 can be assigned for the admitted episode of care.

Note: Z0371 replaces Z038 for patients aged up to 28 days on admission.

Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
1	Admitted to and discharged from Hospital A	Sample taken and tested at Hospital A during episode of care.	Yes	No	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, U060
2	Admitted to and discharged from Hospital A	Sample taken and tested at Hospital A during episode of care.	Yes	Yes	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038, U060
3	Admitted to and discharged from Hospital A	Sample taken and tested at Hospital A during episode of care.	No	Yes	Z208, U060

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Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
4	Admitted to Hospital A for a non COVID-19 related condition, during the episode of care the patient is diagnosed with symptoms/possible COVID-19. COVID-19 test performed during admission.	Sample taken and tested at Hospital A	Yes	No	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, U060
5	Admitted to Hospital A for a non COVID-19 related condition, during the episode of care the patient is diagnosed with symptoms/possible COVID-19. COVID-19 test performed during admission.	Sample taken and tested at Hospital A	Yes	Yes	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038, U060
6	Admitted to Hospital A after being tested for COVID-19 prior to admission (results pending on admission).	Test performed elsewhere, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Home • GP Rooms • Fever Clinic • Outpatient Department/Clinic 	Yes	No	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038
7	Admitted to Hospital A after being tested for COVID-19 prior to admission (results pending on admission).	Test performed elsewhere, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Home • GP Rooms • Fever Clinic • Outpatient Department/Clinic 	Yes	Yes	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038
8	Admitted to Hospital A after being tested for COVID-19 prior to admission (results pending on admission).	Test performed elsewhere, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Home • GP Rooms • Fever Clinic • Outpatient Department/Clinic 	No	Yes	Z208

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Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
9	Presents at Emergency Department (ED) then admitted to Hospital A (COVID-19 test performed in ED prior to admission date/time).	Emergency Department <i>Note: If testing performed in ED <u>AFTER</u> admission to Hospital A see Scenario 1</i>	Yes	No	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038
10	Presents at Emergency Department (ED) then admitted to Hospital A (COVID-19 test performed in ED prior to admission date/time).	Emergency Department <i>Note: If testing performed in ED <u>AFTER</u> admission to Hospital A see Scenario 2</i>	Yes	Yes	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038
11	Presents at Emergency Department (ED) then admitted to Hospital A (COVID-19 test performed in ED prior to admission date/time).	Emergency Department <i>Note: If testing performed in ED <u>AFTER</u> admission to Hospital A see Scenario 3</i>	No	Yes	Z208
12	Admitted to Hospital A, COVID-19 test taken at Hospital A and then transferred to Hospital B for ongoing care (test results pending on admission).	Sample taken and tested at Hospital A	Yes	No	Hospital A: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, U060, Z756 Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s) Note: Query submitted to ACE regarding assignment of U060 and Z756 in same episode of care, response pending.

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Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
13	Admitted to Hospital A, COVID-19 test taken at Hospital A and then transferred to Hospital B for ongoing care (test results pending on admission).	Sample taken and tested at Hospital A	Yes	Yes	<p>Hospital A: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038, U060, Z756</p> <p>Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208</p> <p>Note: Query submitted to ACE regarding assignment of U060 and Z756 in same episode of care, response pending.</p>
14	<p>Admitted to Hospital A for symptoms and possible COVID-19, transferred to Hospital B for COVID-19 testing, transferred back to Hospital A (results pending on admission back to Hospital A).</p> <p>Patient treated as possible COVID-19 until results returned during 3rd admitted episode of care.</p>	Sample taken and tested at Hospital B	Yes	No	<p>Hospital A (1st episode): Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, Z756</p> <p>Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, U060, Z756</p> <p>Hospital A (2nd episode): Symptom(s)/condition(s)</p> <p>Note: Query submitted to ACE regarding assignment of U060 and Z756 in same episode of care, response pending.</p>

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Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
15	Admitted to Hospital A for symptoms and possible COVID-19, transferred to Hospital B for COVID-19 testing, transferred back to Hospital A (results pending on back to Hospital A). Patient treated as possible COVID-19 until results returned during 3 rd admitted episode of care.	Sample taken and tested at Hospital B	Yes	Yes	Hospital A (1 st episode): Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038, Z756 Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038, U060, Z756 Hospital A (2 nd episode): Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208 Note: Query submitted to ACE regarding assignment of U060 and Z756 in same episode of care, response pending.
16	Presents at ED with symptoms and possible COVID-19, patient is tested in ED prior to admission to Hospital A for ongoing management of symptoms. Patient then transferred to Hospital B (results still pending on admission for both Hospitals).	Emergency Department	Yes	No	Hospital A: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, Z756 Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038
17	Presents at ED with symptoms and possible COVID-19, patient is tested in ED prior to admission to Hospital A for ongoing management of symptoms. Patient then transferred to Hospital B (results still pending on admission for both Hospitals).	Emergency Department	Yes	Yes	Hospital A: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038, Z756 Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038

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Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
18	Admitted to Hospital A for symptoms and possible COVID-19, test performed at Hospital A but not processed – test travelled with patient to Hospital B for processing. Patient transferred to Hospital B for ongoing care symptoms and possible COVID-19 (test and results pending on admission).	Hospital A	Yes	No	<p>Hospital A: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, U060, Z756</p> <p>Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s)</p> <p>Note: Two queries submitted to ACE with response pending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the symptoms cannot be attributed to a condition, can Z038 be assigned at Hospital B? • U060 and Z756 in same episode of care
19	Admitted to Hospital A for symptoms and possible COVID-19, test performed at Hospital A but not processed – test travelled with patient to Hospital B for processing. Patient transferred to Hospital B for ongoing care symptoms and possible COVID-19 (test and results pending on admission).	Hospital A	Yes	Yes	<p>Hospital A: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038, U060, Z756</p> <p>Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208</p> <p>Note: Two queries submitted to ACE with response pending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the symptoms cannot be attributed to a condition, can Z038 be assigned at Hospital B? • U060 and Z756 in same episode of care

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Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
20	<p>Admitted to Hospital A for symptoms and possible COVID-19, tested Hospital A and then transferred to Hospital B for ongoing care symptoms and possible COVID-19 (results pending on admission). The results for the test performed at Hospital A come back as negative for COVID-19.</p> <p>During the 2nd episode of care, the patient is re-tested for COVID-19 due to ongoing clinical symptoms. Test comes back negative.</p>	Hospital A and Hospital B	Yes	No	<p>Hospital A: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038 U060, Z756</p> <p>Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, U060</p> <p>Note: Query submitted to ACE regarding assignment of U060 and Z756 in same episode of care, response pending.</p>
21	<p>Admitted to Hospital A for symptoms and possible COVID-19, tested Hospital A and then transferred to Hospital B for ongoing care symptoms and possible COVID-19 (results pending on admission). The results for the test performed at Hospital A come back as negative for COVID-19.</p> <p>During the 2nd episode of care, the patient is re-tested for COVID-19 due to ongoing clinical symptoms and possible exposure. Test comes back negative.</p>	Hospital A and Hospital B	Yes	Yes	<p>Hospital A: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z208, Z038 U060, Z756</p> <p>Hospital B: Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z038, Z208, U060</p> <p>Note: Query submitted to ACE regarding assignment of U060 and Z756 in same episode of care, response pending.</p>

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Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
22	Patient self presents to Hospital A (non-mandated) for COVID-19 testing relating to feared COVID-19 and is admitted. Testing performed prior to admission (ED or other location).	Not Hospital A	No	No	Z711
23	Patient self presents to Hospital A, non-mandated for COVID-19 testing relating to feared COVID-19 and is admitted. Testing performed prior to admission (ED or other location). Note: While patient may have symptoms, there is no documented suspicion that these symptoms are COVID-19 related.	Not Hospital A	Yes	No	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z711
24	Patient self presents to Hospital A (non-mandated) for COVID-19 testing relating to feared COVID-19 and is admitted. Testing performed after formal admission .	Hospital A	No	No	Z711, U060
25	Patient self presents to Hospital A, A (non-mandated) for COVID-19 testing relating to feared COVID-19 and is admitted. Testing performed after formal admission . Note: While patient may have symptoms, there is no documented suspicion that these symptoms are COVID-19 related.	Hospital A	Yes	No	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z711, U060
26	Patient self presents to Hospital A (mandated) for COVID-19 testing and is admitted. Testing performed prior to admission (ED or other location).		No	No	Z115

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Scenario	Admission pathway	Location of COVID-19 testing	Symptoms	COVID-19 Exposure	ICD-10-AM codes assigned
27	Patient self presents to Hospital A (mandated) for COVID-19 testing and is admitted. Testing performed prior to admission (ED or other location). Note: While patient may have symptoms, there is no documented suspicion that these symptoms are COVID-19 related.		Yes	No	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z115
28	Patient self presents to Hospital A (mandated) for COVID-19 testing and is admitted. Testing performed after formal admission.	Hospital A	No	No	Z115, U060
29	Patient self presents to Hospital A (mandated) for COVID-19 testing and is admitted. Testing performed after formal admission. Note: While patient may have symptoms, there is no documented suspicion that these symptoms are COVID-19 related.	Hospital A	Yes	No	Symptom(s)/condition(s), Z115, U060
30	Patient admitted to Hospital A for a non COVID-19 related condition, during the episode of care COVID-19 test performed as precautionary (preoperative screening, requirement for transfer to Nursing Home, etc). There is no documentation in the clinical record to say testing is mandated. Test came back negative.	Hospital A	No	No	U060 Note: Query submitted to ACE regarding where an admitted is tested for COVID-19 as a precautionary/routine requirement (preoperative workup, requirement for transfer to Nursing Home, etc), what codes should be assigned, response pending.

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Other things to consider when coding COVID-19 related episodes of care:

- Clustering and sequencing of COVID-19 related ICD-10-AM codes – exposure, symptom(s), condition(s), associated Z codes and U060 should be sequenced together in this sequence.
- Z29.0 Isolation – assignment of this code should be sequenced immediately after U06.0 where documented in the clinical record.
- Condition onset flag (COF) values – ensure that the assignment of COF values is consistent with the clinical picture, and relates to exposure, symptom(s) and condition(s) COF values
- “Mandated” - this can be a State or Hospital and Health Service requirement – such as treatment of border bubble patients.