



MS-DRG Weighting Factor Increase

Per the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, effective with **admissions occurring on or after September 1, 2020**, claims eligible for the 20 percent increase in the MS-DRG weighting factor are required to have a positive COVID-19 laboratory test documented in the patient's medical record. Tests must follow the guidelines below.

- Positive tests must be demonstrated using only the results of viral testing (i.e., molecular or antigen), consistent with CDC guidelines.
- The test may be performed either during the hospital admission or prior to the hospital admission.
 - For this purpose, a viral test performed within 14 days of the hospital admission, including a test performed by an entity other than the hospital, can be manually entered into the patient's medical record to satisfy this requirement.

To view the full CMS article, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/se20015.pdf>.

As required by CMS, these claims will be monitored through our current claims review and auditing partnerships.