



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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DHA-Policy Memorandum 20-003

March 8, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, COASTAL MISSISSIPPI MARKET, DEFENSE
HEALTH AGENCY
DIRECTOR, JACKSONVILLE MARKET, DEFENSE HEALTH
AGENCY
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION MARKET, DEFENSE
HEALTH AGENCY
DIRECTOR, CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA MARKET, DEFENSE
HEALTH AGENCY
DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION ARMY
DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION NAVY
DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Memorandum for Defense Health Agency Staff – Military Medical
Treatment Facilities to Implement Updated DHA COVID-19 Medical Coding
Policy

- Reference:
- (a) DoD Directive 5136.01, “Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)),” September 30, 2013, as amended
 - (b) DoD Directive 5136.13 “Defense Health Agency,” September 30, 2013
 - (c) DoD Instruction 6040.42, “Management Standards for Medical Coding of DoD Health Records,” June 8, 2016.
 - (d) DHA-Procedural Instruction 5025.01, “Publications System,” August 24, 2018
 - (e) Executive Order 13962, “Ensuring Access to United States Government COVID-19 Vaccines,” December 8, 2020
 - (f) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Guidance,” December 7, 2020
 - (g) Defense Health Agency Interim Procedures Memorandum 20-004, “Department of Defense (DoD) Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Implementation,” December 31, 2020
 - (h) Director, Defense Health Agency Memorandum, “Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Fiscal Guidance,” December 23, 2020

This Defense Health Agency (DHA) Policy Memorandum, based on the authority of References (a) through (d) and in accordance with the guidance of References (e) through (h), establishes the DHA procedures to standardize the coding for Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) within military medical treatment facilities (MTFs). This memorandum replaces DHA-Policy Memorandum 20-003 of July 1, 2020. Attachment 1 was updated to include the 2021 procedure and diagnosis codes for COVID-19, including the new vaccination and treatment codes.

This Policy Memorandum applies to all assigned, attached, or detailed active duty and Reserve Service members, Federal civilians, contractors (when required by the terms of the applicable contract), and other personnel assigned temporary or permanent duties at MTFs. This

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Policy Memorandum is effective immediately and will expire effective 12 months from the date of issuance, or until superseded by updated coding policy issued by DHA.

Effective January 1, 2021, MTFs are instructed to utilize the DHA COVID-19 Medical Coding Policy Version 5.1 (Attachment 1), which includes newly added guidance on assigning 2021 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System/Current Procedural Terminology and International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification/Procedural Classification System specific codes for COVID-19, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the American Medical Association. Within Attachment 1, Section 7 provides COVID-19 vaccination coding guidance and Section 8 provides additional instruction for the assignment of COVID-19 inpatient treatment and therapy codes. As applicable, MTFs are to follow the interim guidance in Section 6 regarding how to code for COVID-19 vaccinations if the 2021 code sets have not yet been updated in their facility's electronic health record (EHR) system. Code set updates are expected to be completed by the end of January 2021.

Earlier versions of the DHA COVID-19 Medical Coding Policy remain in effect as follows: for encounters dated July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, MTFs must utilize the DHA COVID-19 Medical Coding Policy Version 4.0 (Effective Date July 1, 2020); for encounters dated May 13, 2020 to June 30, 2020, MTFs must utilize the DHA COVID-19 Medical Coding Policy Version 3.0 (Effective Date May 13, 2020); for encounters dated April 1, 2020 to May 12, 2020, MTFs must utilize the DHA COVID-19 Medical Coding Policy Version 2.0 (Effective Date April 1, 2020); for encounters prior to April 1, 2020, MTFs must utilize the Interim DHA COVID-19 Medical Policy (Effective Date March 23, 2020). In addition, MTFs must continue to comply with the DHA COVID-19 Virtual Encounter Coding Policy, released on April 8, 2020, which details the procedures to accurately document and code virtual clinical encounters during the COVID-19 pandemic. These policies are all available for download on the DHA Coding Work Group Milsuite site: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/community/spaces/dha-pad/coding-work-group>.

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Please address questions regarding this Policy Memorandum to Ms. Michele Frens, Head, DHA Medical Coding Program Branch at michele.a.frens.civ@mail.mil or (571) 286-9028. Questions may also be addressed to the DHA Medical Coding Program mailbox at dha.ncr.healthcare-ops.mbx.medical-coding@mail.mil.

/S/

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Assistant Director

Healthcare Administration

Attachment:

1. DHA COVID-19 Medical Coding Policy, Version 5.1 (Effective 01 January 2021)