



Frequently asked questions – principal diagnosis of emergency care episodes relating to suspected cases, probable cases and testing of COVID-19

Q1:

A patient presents to the emergency department with an acute respiratory illness and a history of recent overseas travel. The clinician continues their assessment and determines this patient meets the criteria for a suspected case of COVID-19, according to the clinical guidelines their health department endorses. What is the principal diagnosis?

A:

Assign U07.1 Emergency use of *U07.1 [COVID-19]* as the principal diagnosis as it was determined this is a suspected case of COVID-19.

Q2:

A patient presents to the emergency department with fever and loss of smell and taste. The patient works as a nurse in aged care and is concerned they have contracted COVID-19. The patient meets the criteria for suspected COVID -19, according to the clinical guidelines their health department endorses. What is the principal diagnosis?

A:

Assign U07.1 Emergency use of *U07.1 [COVID-19]* as the principal diagnosis as it was determined this is a suspected case of COVID-19.



Q3:

A patient presents to the emergency department after close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19. The patient has a slight fever and a mild cough. The patient is tested for COVID-19 and discharged home to await the results. What is the principal diagnosis?

A:

Assign U07.1 Emergency use of *U07.1 [COVID-19]* as the principal diagnosis as it was determined this is a suspected case of COVID-19.

Q4:

A patient presents to the emergency department with a fever after recently attending a restaurant that is now listed as a COVID-19 hot spot. Three days ago, the patient was tested for COVID-19 at a pop-up clinic run by the local hospital, but has not received their results. The physician is able to follow up the test results and confirm the patient is negative for COVID-19. What is the principal diagnosis?

A:

Assign U06.0 Emergency use of *U06.0 [COVID-19, ruled out]* as the principal diagnosis. The patient was suspected of having COVID-19 and initially treated in the emergency department for the disease until laboratory test results confirmed the patient did not have COVID-19.

Q5:

A patient with lupus presents to the emergency department with a fever, cough and painful swollen joints. The patient is diagnosed with COVID-19 after confirmation by positive laboratory results. It was determined the patient's lupus flare up was due to the COVID-19 infection. What is the principal diagnosis?

A:

Lupus and COVID-19 are both able to be listed as diagnoses. Assign U07.1 Emergency use of *U07.1 [COVID-19]* as the principal diagnosis and lupus as an additional diagnosis, as COVID-19 was determined to be mainly responsible for occasioning the attendance at the emergency department.



Q6:

An admitted patient was treated for COVID-19 related pneumonia and was discharged home. Later that day, the patient re-presented to the emergency department with increasing shortness of breath. The patient was still considered to have active COVID-19. What is the principal diagnosis of the emergency episode?

A:

Assign U07.1 Emergency use of *U07.1 [COVID-19]* as the principal diagnosis of the emergency episode as the patient is positive for COVID-19.