

## COVID-19 – advice about coding in General Practice (SCOTLAND)

The aim of this document is to provide practical advice to General practitioners to facilitate the recording of essential information relating to COVID-19 disease and the SARS-CoV-2 virus. We have selected a short list of SNOMED CT concepts from all of those which are expected to be available to GP systems in Scotland at some point in the week starting the 28<sup>th</sup> April. This is intended to be a ‘starter list’ covering the most needed descriptions rather than be exhaustive. It is likely to need to be extended in the light of experience as the pandemic unfolds and as new concepts are added.

***Rather than looking for specific codes we strongly advise searching for the description required using a ‘string’ such as ‘COVID-19’ or ‘SARS-CoV-2’ where appropriate.*** For those who wish to know the codes recorded, the Coding column in the tables below provides the relevant system codes.

We understand that the COVID-19 related content of the February and April UK Emergency SNOMED CT releases is will become available as local codes in Scottish GP systems in line with the timeline above. Once these becomes available, we would strongly recommend that GPs and their supporting staff should use the descriptions laid out in the tables below. In particular they should use the appropriate new SNOMED CT descriptions in place of the original five emergency system wide local codes containing the name ‘Wuhan’, that were provided in February 2020, as follows:

Old emergency term	New description (SNOMD CT)
Exposure to 2019-nCoV (Wuhan) infection	Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) infection
Suspected 2019-nCoV (Wuhan) infection	Suspected COVID-19
Confirmed 2019-nCoV (Wuhan) infection	COVID-19
Excluded 2019-nCoV (Wuhan) infection	COVID-19 excluded

In place of “Tested for 2019-nCoV (Wuhan) infection” we would recommend recording either the taking of a swab test or else the performance of a specific test such as “Detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 using polymerase chain reaction technique”. Note that there are now also specific and clear descriptions for capturing the results of that test as PCR antigen detected / not detected.

We would also urge practices, when wishing to signify SARS-CoV-2 infection or COVID-19 disease not to use the older and less specific coronavirus terms such as:

- Exposure to coronavirus infection
- Suspected coronavirus infection
- Disease due to Coronaviridae
- Coronavirus infection
- Pneumonia caused by Human coronavirus
- Pneumonia due to Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus

Please note that until such time as they are confident that these new codes are in place in all sites in Scotland, and they are certain that any searches have been updated to incorporate new codes we have been advised by NHS Scotland colleagues that GPs should continue to use *9d44. Potential Infectious Contact* to identify patients who are Shielding. NHS Scotland advise us that they intend to move to use the new codes in due course and we will update the advice here at that time.

<b>To record</b>	<b>Look for this Description</b>	<b>EMIS Coding</b>	<b>Vision Coding</b>
Telephone consultation	Telephone consultation for suspected SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2)	^ESCT1299041	9N31200
Exposure to COVID-19	Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) infection	EMISNQEX58	65PW100
<b>Suspected case of the disease COVID-19</b>	Suspected COVID-19	^ESCT1299116	1JX1.00
Swab taken by HCP	Swab for SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) taken by healthcare professional	^ESCT1300238	4JF6000
Self-swabbing by patient	Self-taken swab for SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) offered	^ESCT1300236	4JF6100
	Self-taken swab for SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) completed	^ESCT1300234	4JF6200
<b>Positive result for PCR (antigen) test</b>	SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) detected	^ESCT1299074	4J3R100
<b>Negative result for PCR (antigen) test</b>	SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) not detected	^ESCT1299077	4J3R200
Disease confirmed by lab testing	COVID-19 confirmed by laboratory test	^ESCT1300228	A795200
Disease excluded by lab testing	COVID-19 excluded by laboratory test	^ESCT1300245	1IP1.00
Probable case of COVID-19 –NB use with care. Indicates judgement that the disease has been confirmed by clinical picture/other investigations (e.g. imaging)	COVID-19 confirmed using clinical diagnostic criteria	^ESCT1300229	A795300
<b>When there is a high level of confidence about diagnosis of COVID-19 - e.g. where confirmed by lab test or where patient has been in close contact with a confirmed case</b>	COVID-19	EMISNQCO303	A795100
<b>Not a case of COVID-19</b>	COVID-19 excluded	EMISNQEX59	4J3R200
Telephone advice about SARS-CoV-2	Advice given about SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) by telephone	^ESCT1299107	8CAO100

To record	Look for this Description	EMIS Coding	Vision Coding
Signposting to online notes service for providing proof of coronavirus absence from work. See reference [1] for detail.	Signposting to NHS online isolation note service	^ESCT1300240	8HkjD00
<b>COVID-19 risk stratification – high risk of developing complications from COVID-19</b>	High risk category for developing complication from COVID-19 infection	^ESCT1300222	14Or.00
Self-isolation of those with symptoms or who live with someone with symptoms. See reference [2] for detail.	Self-isolation to prevent exposure of community to contagion	^ESCT1300247	65R5.00
Shielding - to protect people who are clinically extremely vulnerable by minimising all interaction with others. See reference [3] for detail	Shielding of uninfected subject to prevent exposure to contagion	^ESCT1300251	65R7.00
To represent the performance of a PCR test (note does not record the result of the test)	Detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 using polymerase chain reaction technique	^ESCT1299053	<none>

### References

[1] <https://digital.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/isolation-notes>

[2] <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

[3] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>