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Foreword

This document is designed to provide general information and instruction on the analysis of COVID-19 recorded in Scottish Morbidity Records (SMR) using ICD-10 codes for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland. Analysts should contact the Terminology Services helpdesk for assistance with specific COVID-19 queries and / or if they have questions on COVID-19 related coding.

This guidance was correct as of October 2021 and may be subject to change. Please check Terminology Services website for updates at https://www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/Terminology-Services/Coding-Information-for-Analysts/
General Information

The World Health Organisation (WHO) have released seven ICD-10 emergency use codes related to COVID-19 between February 2020 and March 2021.

Terminology Services have released Scottish Clinical Coding Standards (SCCS) for each code, including updates and revisions in response to the evolving clinical situation and updating of definitions by the WHO.

The corresponding codes and their descriptions appear in the reference files as follows:

- **U07.1** COVID-19, virus identified
- **U07.2** COVID-19, virus not identified
- **U07.3** Personal history of COVID-19
- **U07.4** Post COVID-19 condition
- **U07.5** Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19
- **U07.6** Need for immunization against COVID-19
- **U07.7** COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use

**Note:**

- These codes do not follow the ICD-10 category/sub-category hierarchy i.e. 4th character subcategories **U07.1 - 7** are not a further specification of the 3-character code **U07**, therefore they should not be analysed at a 3-character level.

- Any of these codes seen in SMR records prior to their applicability dates should be excluded from analysis.
Analysts should be aware outwith the UK, morbidity coding and National Records of Scotland (NRS) mortality coding, conditions classified by **U07.3 - 7** were assigned different ICD-10 codes (**U08, U09, U10, U11** and **U12** respectively). However, the code descriptions remain identical and the codes map one-to-one.
Summary

The following ICD-10 codes – and criteria / caveats clarifying what they classify – must be used when analysing COVID-19 for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland.

Note: it is likely that 'coronavirus' without any further specification will relate to the COVID-19 strain. Therefore, it is advised that B34.2 and B97.2 should be included in analysis, but please be aware that these codes also classify non-COVID-19 coronaviruses and as such this data will have to be caveated, particularly for paediatric admissions.

Discharges up to 31 March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 Code</th>
<th>Criteria/Caveats</th>
<th>SMR type and position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U07.1</td>
<td>Confirmed cases of novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) / COVID-19</td>
<td>SMR01 – all positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR02 – all positions¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR04 – all positions¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B34.2</td>
<td>• The term ‘coronavirus’ without any further specification</td>
<td>SMR01 – all positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Other specified types of coronavirus, that is, not COVID-19 coronavirus</td>
<td>SMR02 – positions 2–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR04 – positions 2–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B97.2</td>
<td>• The term ‘coronavirus’ without any further specification (as the cause of other diseases)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Other specified types of coronavirus, that is, not COVID-19 coronavirus (as the cause of other diseases)</td>
<td>SMR01 – positions 2–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR02 – positions 2–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR04 – positions 2–6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note

1. U07.1, U07.2 and B34.2 should not be in DG1 position for SMR02 or SMR04, however, it is possible that they may appear in DG1 position in error.
## Discharges from 01 April 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 Code</th>
<th>Criteria/Caveats</th>
<th>SMR type and position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U07.1</td>
<td>COVID-19 infection confirmed by laboratory testing</td>
<td>SMR01 – all positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR02 – all positions²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR04 – all positions²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U07.2</td>
<td>COVID-19 infection diagnosed clinically or epidemiologically where laboratory confirmation is negative, inconclusive or not available / performed</td>
<td>SMR01 – all positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR02 – all positions²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SMR04 – all positions²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| B34.2       | • The term ‘coronavirus’ without any further specification  
• Other specified types of coronavirus, that is, not COVID-19 coronavirus                                                                                                                                       | SMR01 – all positions                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR02 – positions 2–6                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR04 – positions 2–6                 |
| B97.2       | • The term ‘coronavirus’ without any further specification (as the cause of other diseases)  
• Other specified types of coronavirus, that is, not COVID-19 coronavirus (as the cause of other diseases)                                                                                           | SMR01 – positions 2–6                 |
<p>|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR02 – positions 2–6                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR04 – positions 2–6                 |
| U07.3       | Personal history of COVID-19. No current/active infection. Discharges from 1st January 2021                                                                                                                    | SMR01 – positions 2–6                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR02 – positions 2–6                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR04 – positions 2–6                 |
| U07.4       | Post COVID-19 condition or symptom. Includes, but is not limited to diagnoses of ‘long COVID’ Discharges from 1st January 2021³                                                                                   | SMR01 – all positions                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR02 – all positions                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR04 – all positions                 |
| U07.5       | Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19 Discharges from 1st January 2021                                                                                                                    | SMR01 – all positions                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR02 – all positions                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR04 – all positions                 |
| U07.6       | Need for immunization against COVID-19                                                                                                                                                                          | SMR01 – all positions                 |
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SMR02 – positions 2–6                 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 Code</th>
<th>Criteria/Caveats</th>
<th>SMR type and position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U07.7</td>
<td>COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects/reactions Discharges from 1st March 2021</td>
<td>SMR01 – positions 2–6 SMR02 – positions 2–6 SMR04 – positions 2–6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

1. Codes **U07.3-7** were not introduced until 2021. Start dates will be indicated.

2. **U07.1, U07.2 and B34.2** should not be in DG1 position for SMR02 or SMR04, however, it is possible that they may appear in DG1 position in error.

3. Modification of use of **U07.4** applicable for discharges from 1st March 2021, see main guidance document.
COVID-19 Standards Timeline

Below is a timeline with summary and links to the COVID-19 related Scottish Clinical Coding Standards (SCCS) released by Terminology services from February 2020 to July 2021 for clinical coding staff.

Note: coders have been advised to use SCCS 30 consolidation document for discharges from 1st June 2021. If coding episodes with a discharge date on or before 31st May 2021, they must refer to the previous applicable standard.

SCCS 22:

- Released February 2020.
- Only use for discharges on or before 31st March 2020.
- Summary: Introduction of new emergency use code U07.1.

SCCS 24:

- Released April 2020.
- Superseded by SCCS 25 and coders advised not to use for coding historic backlog.

SCCS 25:

- Released May 2020 and superseded SCCS 24.
- Use for discharges from 1st April 2020 to 31st May 2021.
- Summary: change of definition of U07.1 and introduction of new emergency use code U07.2. Updated guidance on codes U07.1 and U07.2. Guidance on COVID-19 related scenarios.
SCCS 27:

- Released February 2021
- Use for discharges from 1st January 2021 – 31st May 2021
  - Note: see also SCCS 28 for amendment to use of **U07.4**
- Summary: introduction of new ICD-10 emergency use codes for conditions related to COVID-19 – **U07.3, U07.4** and **U07.5** (personal history of, post COVID-19 conditions and multisystem inflammatory syndrome).
  - Note: subsequent amendment in SCCS 28 on use of **U07.4** in relation to long inpatient stays.

SCCS 28:

- Released in March 2021
- Use for discharges from 1st March 2021 - 31st May 2021.
- Summary: introduction of new ICD-10 emergency use codes in relation to vaccinations for COVID-19 – **U07.6** and **U07.7**. Amendment to guidance on use of **U07.4 Post COVID-19 condition** in relation to long inpatient stays.

SCCS 29:

- Released in June 2021
- Applicable for discharges from 1st June 2021.
- Summary: revision of SCCS 25 sections 1. **COVID-19 confirmed by laboratory testing** and 2. **COVID-19 diagnosed clinically** (use of codes **U07.1** and **U07.2**)
  - Note: content of SCCS 29 is included in SCCS 30, so coders should reference SCCS 30 for discharges from 1st June 2021.
SCCS 30:

- Released in June 2021
- Applicable for discharges from 1st June 2021.
- Summary: consolidation of all current, active guidance related to COVID-19 emergency use codes and related scenarios.
Emergency Use COVID-19 ICD-10 codes in Detail

The ICD-10 coding of COVID-19 can be grouped into three topics:

- Diagnosis of COVID-19
- COVID-19 related conditions
- Vaccination related codes

**Diagnosis of COVID-19**

If performing analysis on active COVID infections using ICD-10 codes, there are two relevant emergency use codes:

- **U07.1 COVID-19, virus identified**
- **U07.2 COVID-19, virus not identified**

The rules around the recording of these codes varies depending on the time period being examined.

**Discharges up to 31 March 2020**

- Only **U07.1** was in use and could be used for any type of COVID-19 infection: laboratory test positive or clinically diagnosed.

- **U07.1** was advised to be assigned in the primary diagnosis field for SMR01. However, all positions on SMR01, SMR02 and SMR04 should be searched as validation (which has since been updated) may have allowed **U07.1** to be in position 1 in SMR02/04 records (generally these records have to have a ‘O’ or ‘F’ code in primary position respectively).
Discharges after 01 April 2020

- **U07.1** definition changed so this code identifies COVID-19 confirmed by laboratory testing **only**.

- **U07.2** was introduced and identifies COVID-19 diagnosed clinically or epidemiologically where laboratory confirmation is negative, inconclusive or not available / performed.
  
  - **U07.2** can be assigned even if the terms used by the responsible care professional to describe COVID-19 do not provide a definitive diagnosis, for example, ‘possible COVID-19’ or ‘suspected COVID-19’. As such data using **U07.2** should be caveated with this information.

- **U07.1** and **U07.2** can be in all positions on SMR01 and DG2-6 in SMR02 and SMR04. However, all positions across all records should be searched as validation (which has since been updated) may have allowed **U07.1** and **U07.2** to be in position 1 in SMR02/04 records (generally these records have to have a ‘O’ or ‘F’ code in primary position respectively).

**Manifestations/Symptoms of COVID-19**

For both time periods, manifestations or symptoms of COVID-19 infection coded using **U07.1** or **U07.2** must also be recorded. Sign / symptom codes from Chapter XVIII (aka ‘R’ codes) are not normally recorded when a definitive diagnosis is made, therefore analysts may see a rise in the number of non-specific sign and symptom coding for this period.

It is not possible without further clinical guidance to conclude which of the other codes in the SMR record are acute COVID-19 infection manifestations or related conditions as any other concurrent diseases, illnesses or relevant co-morbidities will also be recorded on the record according to normal coding rules. Analysts should seek further guidance if performing analysis on acute COVID-19 infection manifestations or related conditions.
Other coronavirus ICD-10 codes

Two other ICD-10 codes may need to be considered for inclusion in analysis for active COVID-19 infection:

- **B34.2 Coronavirus infection, unspecified site**
- **B97.2 Coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters**

These codes were the existing ICD-10 codes for coronavirus (of which COVID-19 is a new subtype).

A statement of ‘coronavirus’ with no other clinical information would be coded using either B34.2 or B97.2. However, it is thought that for the duration of the pandemic, ‘coronavirus’ without any further specification may relate to the COVID-19 strain. Therefore, it is advised that B34.2 and B97.2 should be included in the analysis of COVID-19.

However, please be aware B34.2 and B97.2 also classify non-COVID-19 coronaviruses, therefore by including these codes in any counts could inflate the COVID-19 figures. Data using B34.2 or B97.2 will have to be caveated as ‘possible’ COVID-19 (or similar). This is particularly true for paediatric patients as non-COVID-19 coronavirus infections are common in this group and the assumption that B34.2 or B97.2 represents COVID-19 may overestimate cases.
COVID-19 related conditions

The WHO released three emergency use ICD-10 codes regarding COVID-19 related conditions that were introduced for use in SMR for discharges from 01 January 2021.

These codes should be analysed and reported on separately.

- **U07.3 Personal history of COVID-19**
  - Identifies when patient has a history of COVID-19 which is clinically relevant to the current admission. They do not have active COVID-19 disease and this code should not be used in episodes where U07.1 or U07.2 is recorded.
  - Search diagnosis positions 2–6 on SMR01, SMR02 and SMR04.

- **U07.4 Post COVID-19 condition**
  - Identifies when a patient has a condition or symptom which has been documented by the responsible clinician as a post COVID-19 condition. The patient is no longer being treated for acute COVID-19 infection.
  - Includes, but is not limited to, a diagnosis of ‘long COVID’.
  - Search all positions on SMR01 and positions 2-6 on SMR02 and SMR04.

There may be rare instances of prolonged admissions (e.g. long stay geriatric ward) where an acute COVID-19 infection (U07.1 or U07.2) has been diagnosed then resolved and subsequently a post COVID-19 condition has developed. In this scenario, U07.4 may been seen in records with U07.1/2. This was a change to guidance and only applies to discharges from 01 March 2021. Coding of U07.4 on episodes with a U07.1/2 code was not permitted for discharges from 01 January 2021 – 28th February 2021.
U07.4 can be used a variety of ways and positions in the SMR record.

i. On its own without an accompanying code(s) for the manifestation(s) (i.e. a ‘standalone code’), or

ii. It may follow or precede a code which specifies the manifestation of the post COVID-19 condition.

- The guidance was designed to assist coders in selecting and sequencing codes given the limited space on SMR. However, it means analysis of U07.4 is complex.

- It is not possible without further clinical guidance to conclude which of the other codes in the SMR record are related to U07.4 as any other concurrent diseases, illnesses or relevant co-morbidities will also be recorded according to normal coding rules. Plus, as U07.4 can be used as a standalone code, no other codes in the record may be associated with it.

- Analysts should seek further guidance if performing analysis on post COVID-19 condition manifestation codes and/or post COVID condition as Main Condition.

- Please contact Terminology Services if performing analysis on post COVID-19 conditions before 1st January 2021 as prior to the introduction of U07.4 there was no specific code to identify this condition.

- **U07.5 Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19**

- Identifies when patient has multisystem inflammatory syndrome which has been linked to COVID-19 by the responsible clinician

- Search all positions on SMR01 and positions 2-6 on SMR02 and SMR04.

- U07.5 can be used a variety of ways and positions in the SMR record:

  i. On its own without an accompanying code(s) for the manifestation(s) (i.e. a ‘standalone code’), or
ii. It may follow a code or codes which specify a manifestation of the multisystem inflammatory syndrome. Depending on the number of manifestations, there may be several codes (maximum of five) preceding U07.5.

- The guidance was designed to assist coders in selecting and sequencing codes given the limited space on SMR. However, it means analysis of U07.5 is complex.

- It is not possible without further clinical guidance to conclude which of the other codes in the SMR record are related to U07.5 as any other concurrent diseases, illnesses or relevant co-morbidities will also be recorded according to normal coding rules. Plus, as U07.5 can be used as a standalone code, no other codes in the record may be associated with it.

- Analysts should seek further guidance if performing analysis on Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19 manifestation codes and/or Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19 as a Main Condition.

  o Please contact Terminology Services if performing analysis on multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19 before 1st January 2021 as prior to the introduction of U07.5 there was no specific code to identify this condition.
Vaccination related codes

The WHO released two emergency use ICD-10 codes regarding COVID-19 vaccination that were introduced for use in SMR for discharges from 01 March 2021.

These codes should be analysed and reported on separately.

- **U07.6 Need for immunization against COVID-19**
  
  o Identifies when patient has a need for immunization against COVID-19 if this need influences the patient’s current admission.

  o It is unlikely this code will be recorded on SMR. Its main use will be for organisations/nations which use ICD-10 as a primary care tool.

  o Search all diagnosis positions in SMR01 and positions 2–6 in SMR02 and SMR04.

- **U07.7 COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use**

  o Identifies when a patient has had an adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine.

  o **U07.7** will follow code(s) detailing the manifestation(s) of the reaction e.g. **T88.6 Anaphylactic shock due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered**

  - **U07.7** may be used for counts of admissions involving COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects. However as other concurrent diseases, illnesses or relevant co-morbidities will also be recorded on the SMR according to normal coding rules, caution is advised when performing analysis on the adverse reaction manifestation codes and further guidance should be sought.

  o Search positions 2–6 on SMR01, SMR02 and SMR04.
Please contact Terminology Services if performing analysis prior to 1st March 2021 on adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccination. Prior to this date, this would have been coded using **Y59.0 Adverse effects of viral vaccines**. This code includes adverse reactions to all virus-related vaccinations and is not specific for COVID-19.
Document Control Sheet

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Version history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Summary of changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>15 June 2020</td>
<td>Finalised version for publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>18 August 2020</td>
<td>Amended summary tables (pages 10 and 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>19 August 2020</td>
<td>Amended incorrect text on pages 5, 6, 8 and 9 (code B34.9 changed to B34.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
<td>Major revision with addition of new codes U07.3-7</td>
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