



COVID-19: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CLAIMING AND REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINE

Background

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used by healthcare workers to reduce the risk of being infected with the SARS-COV-2 virus when interacting with patients. The use of PPE is required when any patient that does not have a negative COVID-19 test of no older than 72-hours is treated.

To reduce the complexity that could be associated with the claiming for and reimbursement of PPE items, NAMAF has developed a series of baskets of PPE items that will apply to different patient encounter or treatment scenarios. The baskets are designed to obviate the need for claiming for individual PPE items by allocating single tariff codes to each of the treatment scenarios identified.

PPE Baskets

Two categories of PPE baskets have been developed:

1. Out-of-Hospital PPE baskets vary by the degree of exposure to aerosol generating procedures (AGP) and healthcare practitioners have been divided into four categories:
 - No exposure to aerosol generating procedures
 - Low exposure to aerosol generating procedures
 - Medium exposure to aerosol generating procedures
 - High exposure to aerosol generating procedures
2. In-hospital PPE baskets vary by level of care and have also been divided into four categories:
 - Screening areas. considering that several hospitals have dedicated areas that patients can attend for a COVID-19 test
 - General Wards
 - High Care Wards
 - Intensive Care Units, irrespective of whether a patient is being ventilated or not

PPE Codes and Billing Guidelines

The following codes have been allocated to each of the PPE baskets:

PPE Code	PPE Basket Description	Billing Guideline	Reimbursement Guideline
PPE01	Medium AGP	May be claimed once per patient visit	Out-of-Hospital benefits
PPE02	Low AGP	May be claimed once per patient visit	Out-of-Hospital benefits
PPE03	High AGP	May be claimed once per patient visit	Out-of-Hospital benefits
(Screening area) PPE	Hospital screening area PPE	May be claimed once per patient visit	Out-of-Hospital benefits, subject to individual funds' discretion
GWPE	General Ward PPE	May be claimed once per patient per day for patients that have a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis or are under investigation	In-hospital benefits, subject to individual funds' discretion
HCPPE	High Care PPE	May be claimed once per patient per day for patients that have a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis or are under investigation	In-hospital benefits, subject to individual funds' discretion
ICPPE	Intensive Care Unit PPE	May be claimed once per patient per day for patients that have a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis or are under investigation	In-hospital benefits, subject to individual funds' discretion

Important: In-hospital PPE cannot be claimed for patients that do not have a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis or are under investigation as per the Person Under Investigation (PUI) guidelines. Specifically, in-hospital PPE cannot be claimed for patients admitted for elective procedures or admissions or those admitted to non-COVID-19 wards.

PPE Item Categories

The table below sets out the PPE item categories that apply to each of the PPE codes:

PPE Basket Code	Surgical Mask / other masks		Face Shield	Goggles or Glasses	Gown	Apron	Gloves	Shoes Covers	Scrubs / Suits / overalls	Cap / bonnet / baradava / Beret / Boufantt
	No	N95								
None	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Out-of-Hospital										
Low (PPE002)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Med (PPE001)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
High (PPE003)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Screening (SAPPE per patient)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
PPE General Ward (004/ 005 / 002/ 001/007 / 008 /009)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
In-Hospital										
GWPPE per day										
PPE High Care (1204)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
HCPPE per day										
PPE ICU (1205 / 1206 / 1207 / 1209 / 1210)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ICUPPE per Day										

Please note that in those instances where a PPE item category is not included in a PPE basket (Marked with “No” in the table above) it may not be billed separately.

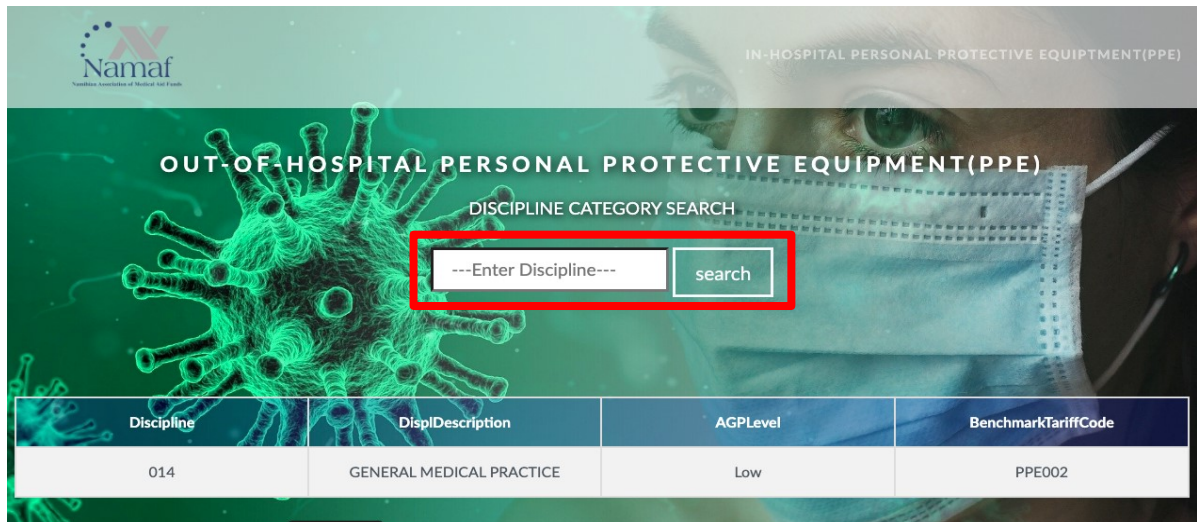
PPE Benchmark Tariffs

The NAMAF Benchmark Tariffs applicable to each discipline are available on the NAMAF website as per the standard practice applicable to the publication of Benchmark Tariffs. In addition, and for ease of reference, a consolidated list of applicable codes and Benchmark Tariffs is being made available to Medical Aid Fund Administrators.

PPE Lookup Facilities

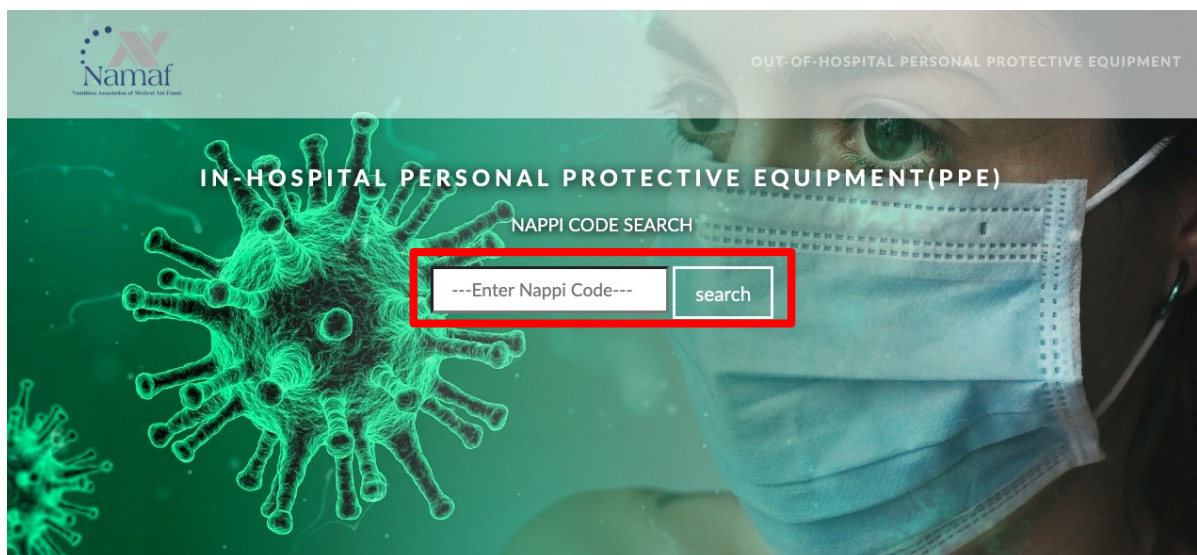
To assist stakeholders further, two lookup facilities are available on the NAMAf website:

1. An Out-of-Hospital AGP category lookup facility:



AGP Categories may be looked up by entering the practice type prefix of a practice number (e.g. 014, 016 or 042) or by typing a practice type name (e.g. physiotherapy or psychology) the results will appear in a table right under the search block.

2. A NAPPI code lookup facility that may be used to determine whether a specific NAPPI code is included in one or more PPE baskets:



NAPPI codes may be looked up by entering the first six or seven digits of a NAPPI code in the lookup field provided, the results will appear in a table right under the search block.

Please note that it is expected that new PPE items will become available and others will become unavailable on a regular basis. Users are urged to report any discrepancies identified in the lookup facility to Maggie Da Silva Mota on maggie@namaf.org.na to enable regular updating of the PPE item database.