

Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing Policy, Professional and Facility

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange reimbursement policies may use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®*), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms. Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy.

This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange's reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange enrollees. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to: legislative mandates, the physician or other provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents and/or other reimbursement, medical or drug policies. Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange products.

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the UB-04 Form, the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (a/k/a CMS-1500) or their electronic equivalents or their successor forms. This policy applies to all products, all network and non-network providers, including, but not limited to, non-network authorized and percent of charge contract hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, physicians and other qualified health care professionals.

Policy

Overview

This policy describes reimbursement for Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) assays for the detection of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), represented by CPT codes 87491, 87591, 87661, or 87801, and submitted for reimbursement on professional and facility claim forms. For purposes of this policy, professional charges are considered those submitted on a 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (CMS-1500) or its electronic equivalent. Facility charges are considered those submitted on a UB-04 Claim Form or its electronic equivalent.

An FDA-cleared PCR assay for detection of gonorrhea and chlamydial infection (Amplicor, Roche Diagnostic Corp.) has been modified for *T. vaginalis* detection in vaginal or endocervical swabs and in urine from women and men; sensitivity ranges from 88%–97% and specificity from 98%–99%.[10] APTIMA *T. vaginalis* Analyte Specific Reagents (ASR, Gen-Probe, Inc.) also can detect *T. vaginalis* RNA by transcription-mediated amplification using the same instrumentation platforms available for the FDA-cleared APTIMA Combo2 assay for diagnosis of gonorrhea and

chlamydial infection; published validation studies of *T. vaginalis* ASR found sensitivity ranging from 74%–98% and specificity of 87%–98%.

Reimbursement Guidelines

UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange will reimburse for the following services for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in men and women:

Single Tests:

- 87491 Chlamydia
- 87591 Gonorrhea
- 87661 *Trichomonas vaginalis*

Comprehensive Test:

- 87801 Infectious agent, multiple organisms

Procedure code 87801 is a more comprehensive, multiple organism code for infectious agent detection by nucleic acid. Effective 8/1/2020, when any two or more of the single test codes (87491, 87591, and/or 87661) are billed separately for the same provider and the same date of service, the reimbursement will be based on the rate for 87801, which is the more comprehensive multiple organisms code. Regardless of the units billed for a single code, payment will be made based on a single unit of 87801.

Definitions

Sexually transmitted infections (STI)	Infections that are passed from one person to another through sexual contact.
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Codes

87491	87591	87661	87801
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Resources

American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)* and associated publications and services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

M. B. Nye, J. R. Schwebke, and B. A. Body, "Comparison of APTIMA *Trichomonas vaginalis* transcription-mediated amplification to wet mount microscopy, culture, and polymerase chain reaction for diagnosis of trichomoniasis in men and women," *Am J Obstet Gynecol*, vol. 200, pp. 188 e1-7, Feb 2009.

CDC, "Recommendations for the laboratory-based detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*--2014," *MMWR Recomm Rep*, vol. 63, pp. 1-19, Mar 14 2014.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Manual – Pub. 100-3 National Coverage Determination / 210.10 – Screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and High-Intensity Behavioral Counseling (HIBC) to Prevent STIs

United States Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations



UnitedHealthcare® Value & Balance Exchange
Reimbursement Policy
CMS-1500 and UB-04
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History

1/1/2021

Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange