

Genetics laboratory program

Frequently asked questions

Overview

We're continuing our work toward the Triple Aim of better care, better health and lower costs for UnitedHealthcare members.

That's why, effective **July 1, 2020**, UnitedHealthcare requires prior authorization to manage testing for genitourinary conditions, including vaginitis, using nucleic acid probe testing. We require a notification or prior authorization for this category of molecular diagnostic tests for all commercial members that currently require prior authorization/notification for Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing.

Frequently asked questions

What is the name of the medical policy that addresses genitourinary (vaginitis) genetic testing? Is it the same policy name for both commercial and Community Plans?

Genitourinary Pathogen Nucleic Acid Detection Panel Testing.

Yes. However, while the commercial policy and Community Plan policy are distinct and separate documents, the name of the policies are the same.

- Commercial policy link:
UHCprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/policies/comm-medical-drug/genitourinary-pathogen-detection-panel-testing.pdf
- Community Plan policy link:
UHCprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/policies/medicaid-comm-plan/genitourinary-pathogen-testing-cs.pdf

Where can I find an updated list of CPT® codes associated with this policy?

Currently, the following codes require prior authorization or advanced notification:

0068U, 87481, 87482, 87510, 87511, 87512,
87797, 87798, 87799, 87800, 87801

Keep in mind that CPT coding changes frequently. Therefore, we suggest you refer to the medical policy directly for an up-to-date list of associated codes.

The policy can be found on **UHCprovider.com** or by using the links above.

Key points

- We're continuing our work toward the Triple Aim of better care, better health and lower costs
- We are encouraging providers to choose to receive payments through direct deposit or Virtual Card
- Providers can register for ACH/direct deposit at **UHCprovider.com/payment**

What diagnostic tests are considered medically necessary per the medical policy?

Direct and amplified DNA probe testing for *Trichomoniasis vaginalis* and direct probe testing for *Candida sp* are likely to be covered if the member is symptomatic for vaginitis.

What diagnostic tests are considered unproven and not medically necessary per the medical policy?

- Amplified DNA probe testing for vulvovaginitis due to *Candida sp*
- Direct and amplified DNA probe testing for bacterial vaginosis (i.e., *Gardnerella vaginalis*)
- Multiplex polymerase chain reaction (PCR) panel testing of genitourinary pathogens, including but not limited to, pathogens commonly associated with vaginitis

What other tests are available to evaluate patients with vaginitis symptoms?

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) recommendations (*ACOG Bulletin*, No. 215, January 2020) for the initial evaluation of patients with vaginitis symptoms include a complete medical history, physical examination of the vulva and vagina and clinical testing of vaginal discharge (i.e., pH testing, a potassium hydroxide [KOH] “whiff” test” and microscopy).

ACOG recommends the use of Amsel clinical criteria or Gram stain with Nugent scoring for the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis. If microscopy is not available, Amsel criteria can still be fulfilled with a patient report of vaginal discharge, elevated pH and positive whiff test result.

For the diagnosis of vulvovaginal candidiasis, ACOG recommends microscopy, culture or direct nucleic acid probe testing using PCR. ACOG cautions that PCR tests for candida have not been FDA-approved and are considerably more expensive than culture. In addition, for complicated or recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis, culture is important to identify the yeast species and correlate with symptoms.

Does this policy apply to laboratory tests for gonorrhea and chlamydia?

No. This policy does not apply to tests for gonorrhea and chlamydia. However, if testing for gonorrhea and chlamydia are included in a pathogens panel, it may be considered unproven and not medically necessary per the policy’s clinical rationale. We do not issue split decisions.

What is the scientific basis for the medical policy’s clinical rationale?

This medical policy’s clinical rationale was developed based on guidelines published by a variety of professional societies including the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG), The Infectious Disease Society of America/American Society for Microbiology, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV.

How does an ordering provider obtain prior authorization and/or advanced notification for these genitourinary pathogen tests?

The UnitedHealthcare Genetic and Molecular Lab Testing Notification and Prior Authorization process is facilitated through the Prior Authorization & Notification tool available in Link. More information can be found on UHCprovider.com.

How do I register for this process?

You'll need a One Healthcare ID to access the Prior Authorization & Notification tool in Link.

If you don't have a One Healthcare ID or if you need help remembering your ID or password, click New User.

If you have questions, you can learn more about Link or call our Help Desk at 866-842-3278, option 1, 7 a.m.–9 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday. To get to the Prior Authorization & Notification tool, sign in to Link by clicking on the Link button in the top right corner of **UHCprovider.com**, and then select the “Prior Authorization & Notification” tile. To learn more about Link, please visit **UHCprovider.com/link**. You'll find information about Link access in the “Getting Started with Link” and “User ID & Password Management” sections.