

Reimbursement Policy

Policy Number: RPLAB070

Policy Title: Prescription Medication and
Illicit Drug Testing

Approval Date: May 15, 2026

Effective Date: Sept. 4, 2026

Policy Disclaimer

If a conflict arises between a Reimbursement Policy and any Plan document under which a member is entitled to covered services, the Plan document will govern. If a conflict arises between a reimbursement policy and any provider contract pursuant to which a provider participates in and/or provides covered services to eligible member(s) and/or plans, the provider's contract will govern. "Plan documents" include, but are not limited to, Certificates of Health Care Benefits, Benefit Booklets, Summary Plan Descriptions, and other coverage documents. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas may use reasonable discretion interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. BCBSTX has full and final discretionary authority for their interpretation and application to the extent provided under any applicable Plan documents.

Providers are responsible for submitting accurate documentation of services performed. Providers are expected to submit claims for services rendered using valid code combinations from Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act approved code sets. Claims should be coded appropriately according to industry standard coding guidelines including, but not limited to: Uniform Billing Editor, American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Assistant, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, National Drug Codes, Diagnosis Related Group guidelines, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual, CCI table edits and other CMS guidelines.

Claims are subject to the code edit protocols for services and procedures billed. Claim submissions are subject to claim review, including but not limited to, any terms of benefit coverage, provider contract language, medical policies, and reimbursement policies, as well as coding software logic. Upon request, the provider is urged to submit any additional documentation.

Description

The Plan has implemented certain lab management reimbursement criteria. Not all requirements apply to each product. Providers are urged to review Plan documents for eligible coverage for services rendered.

Reimbursement Information

This policy does not describe or define the legal responsibility of providers. Providers should refer to state and federal laws for such guidance.

This policy does not address the use of drug testing in the following circumstances:

- A. State, federally regulated and legally mandated drug testing (e.g., court-ordered drug screening, forensic examinations).
- B. Non-forensic testing for commercial driver's licensing or any other job-related testing (e.g., as a prerequisite for employment or as a means for continuation of employment).
- C. As a component of care rendered in an urgent/emergency situation.

Presumptive drug screening using urine samples:

1. Presumptive drug screening using urine samples (no more than 24 times per year) (qualitative, semi-quantitative or quantitative) **may be reimbursable** in ANY of the following situations:
 - a. To assess an individual being treated for chronic, non-cancer pain when clinical evaluation of the individual (history/signs/symptoms) suggests the use of non-prescribed medications or illegal substances:
 - i. Prior to initiating chronic opioid pain therapy in chronic non-cancer pain to determine if the individual has been exposed to controlled substances or potentially confounding illicit drugs.
 - ii. To verify an individual's compliance with treatment or identify undisclosed drug abuse as part of routine monitoring for individuals who are receiving treatment for non-cancer chronic pain with prescription opioid pain medication. The random testing interval and drugs selected for testing should be based on the individual's history, condition, and treatment, as documented in the medical record.
 1. Monitoring of low risk (as defined by a risk assessment tool) individuals on chronic opioid therapy, up to one time per year after initiation of therapy.
 2. Monitoring of moderate risk (as defined by a risk assessment tool) individuals on chronic opioid therapy, up to two times per year after initiation of therapy.

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3. Monitoring of high risk (as defined by a risk assessment tool) individuals on chronic opioid therapy, up to four times per year after initiation of therapy.
 4. For individuals with aberrant behavior (lost prescriptions, multiple requests for early refills, and opioids from multiple providers, unauthorized dose escalation, apparent intoxication, etc.) testing at the time of visit meets coverage criteria.
- b. In pregnant individuals at high-risk for substance abuse in whom the suspicion of drug use exists based on the answers to substance abuse screening questions or indicated by information from the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP), as documented in the medical record.
 - c. In newborns when there is a history of maternal substance abuse or agitated/altered mental status in the birthing parent
 - d. In candidates for organ transplant who have a history of substance abuse (to demonstrate abstinence prior to transplant)
 - e. In individuals with a suspicion of or a diagnosis of mental illness, (e.g., anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, mood disorders, suicidal ideations, substance abuse disorders)
 - f. In individuals with attention-deficit hyperactivity and disruptive behavior disorders
 - g. In cancer patients on opioid pain medication
 - h. In individuals with epilepsy
 - i. For the management and compliance monitoring of an individual under treatment for substance abuse or dependence at the following frequency (after baseline at initial evaluation) and must be documented in the individual's medical record:
 - i. For individuals with 0 to 90 consecutive days of abstinence, qualitative drug testing at a frequency of 1 to 2 per week.
 - ii. For individuals with > 90 consecutive days of abstinence, qualitative drug testing at a frequency of 1 to 3 in one month.
 - j. In individuals where substance abuse is in the differential diagnosis of the presenting conditions

Definitive Drug Testing

2. Confirmatory/definitive qualitative or quantitative drug testing up to seven (7) drug classes (no more than 24 times per year) **may be reimbursable** when laboratory-based definitive drug testing is specifically requested, the rationale is documented by the individual's treating physician and **ANY** of the following conditions are met:
 - a. The result of the presumptive drug screen is different than that suggested by the individual's medical history, clinical presentation or individual's own statement; (e.g., test was negative for prescribed medications, test was positive for prescription drug with abuse potential, which was not prescribed, test was positive for an illegal drug):

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- b. For diagnosing and monitoring individuals with substance use disorder or dependence, when accurate and reliable results are necessary for treatment decisions.
 - i. Individuals with 0 to 30 consecutive days of abstinence, random definitive drug testing at a frequency not to exceed 1 per week.
 - ii. Individuals with 31 to 90 consecutive days of abstinence, random definitive drug testing at a frequency of 1 to 3 per month. No more than 3 definitive drug tests in one month will be allowed.
 - iii. Individuals with > 90 consecutive days of abstinence, definitive drug testing at a frequency of 1 to 3 test(s) every three months. No more than 3 definitive drug tests in a 3-month period will be allowed.
 - c. For monitoring of individuals on opioid therapy (to ensure adherence to the therapeutic plan, for treatment planning, and for detection of other, non-prescribed opioids).
 - d. A presumptive test does not exist or does not adequately detect the specific drug or metabolite to be tested (e.g., specific drugs within the amphetamine, barbiturate, benzodiazepine, tricyclic antidepressants, and opiate/opioid drug classes as well as synthetic/analog or “designer” drugs)
 - e. To definitively identify specific drugs in a large family of drugs
 - f. To identify drugs when a definitive concentration of a drug is needed to guide management.
3. When laboratory-based definitive drug testing is requested for larger than seven drug class panels, confirmatory/definitive qualitative or quantitative drug testing **is not reimbursable**.
 4. Confirmatory/definitive qualitative or quantitative or presumptive (qualitative, semi-quantitative or quantitative) drug testing using proprietary tests (e.g., CareView360) **is not reimbursable**.

Specimen Validity Testing

5. Specimen validity testing, (e.g., urine specific gravity, urine creatinine, pH, urine oxidant level, genetic identity testing, [NextGen Precision™ Testing]), **is included in the base code and therefore will not be separately reimbursed**.

General

6. In all other situations not addressed above, presumptive drug screening and definitive drug testing **are not reimbursable**.

Documentation Requirements

The individual’s medical record must contain documentation that fully supports the medical necessity for drug testing. This documentation includes, but is not limited to, relevant medical history, physical examination, and results of pertinent diagnostic tests or procedures.

The clinician's documentation must be patient specific and accurately reflect the need for each test ordered. Each drug or drug class being tested for must be indicated by the ordering clinician in a written order and documented in the patient's medical record.

Laboratories that submit urine drug testing claims should possess, at a minimum, the following:

- A signed, valid requisition form from the ordering provider that specifies the tests being ordered, and
- Complete results of the tests performed.

The requisition form should include the following:

- A list of the specific drugs or drug classes being tested. Reference to a standard order or a "custom panel" is not acceptable; "Reflex" (or automatic) testing is not acceptable.
- The identity of the patient to include the patient name and date of birth;
- The identity of the ordering provider, including full name, credentials, and NPI number (preferred);
- A legible or appropriate electronic signature with the date signed from the ordering physician (not a stamp or photocopy, and it is not acceptable to state that the physician's signature is on file);
- The facility and location where the sample was collected (e.g., office, home, hospital, residential treatment center);
- The type of sample (e.g., urine, saliva, blood, or hair);
- The date and time the sample was collected;
- The identity of the individual who collected the sample; and
- The date and time the sample was received in the laboratory.

Lab results should contain the following:

- The complete identification of the entity performing the testing (including name, address, and CLIA number);
- The patient's name and date of birth;
- The ordering provider's name and NPI number;
- Facility name, if applicable;
- The date the sample was collected;
- The date the sample was received in the laboratory;
- The date the test results were reported; and
- Complete test results, including validity testing if performed.

Orders

Orders must be patient-specific and include the rationale/need for the test requested. Panel testing is restricted to panels published in the current CPT manual. Orders must be signed and dated by the ordering health care professional.

Note: Retro orders are not acceptable.

Reimbursement

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1. The following **IS reimbursed** (see complete Reimbursement Information above) for:
 - a. Presumptive drug screening based upon appropriate clinical criteria (qualitative, semi-quantitative or quantitative);
 - b. Definitive drug testing (qualitative or quantitative) for up to seven drug classes when the presumptive drug screening meets one of the following criteria:
 - i. The test was negative for prescribed medications, or
 - ii. Positive for a prescription drug with abuse potential which was not prescribed, or
 - iii. Positive for an illegal drug with patient denial of using the drug, or
 - iv. A presumptive test does not exist or does not adequately detect the specific drug or metabolite to be tested.
 - c. Blood specimens in patients with anuric Chronic Renal Failure.
 2. The following **will not be reimbursed**:
 - a. Any AMA definitive drug class codes;
 - b. Same-day testing of the same drug or metabolites from two different samples (e.g., both a blood and a urine specimen) by either presumptive or definitive analyses;
 - c. Blanket orders or routine standing orders for all patients in the physician's practice;
 - d. Samples with abnormal validity tests;
 - e. Drug testing for patients in a facility setting (inpatient or outpatient) is not separately billable from the facility fee.
 3. Only urine or oral fluid specimens will be covered - except blood specimens will be covered for patients with anuric Chronic Renal Failure.
 4. Confirmatory/definitive testing should be supported by documentation of rationale in the individual's medical record.
 5. More than one presumptive test result per individual per date of service regardless of the number of billing providers **will not be reimbursed**:
 - a. It is not reasonable or necessary for a provider to perform qualitative point-of-care testing and also order presumptive testing from a reference laboratory on the same specimen.
 - b. It is not reasonable or necessary for a provider to perform presumptive immunoassay testing and also order presumptive immunoassay testing from a reference laboratory with or without reflex testing on the same specimen.

Procedure Codes

The following is not an all-encompassing code list. The inclusion of a code does not guarantee it is a covered service or eligible for reimbursement.

Code	Description
80305	DRUG TEST PRSMV DIR OPT OBS
80306	DRUG TEST PRSMV INSTRMNT
80307	DRUG TEST PRSMV CHEM ANALYZR
80320-80377	DEFINITIVE DRUG CLASSES
0007U	RX TEST PRSMV UR W/DEF CONF
0011U	U RX MNTR LC-MS/MS ORAL FLUID
0051U	RX MNTR LC-MS/MS UR/BLD 31
0054U	RX MNTR 14+ DRUGS & SBSTS
0079U	CMPRTV DNA ALYS MLT SNPS
0082U	RX TEST DEF 90+ RX/SBSTS UR
0093U	RX MNTR 65 COM DRUGS URINE
0227U	RX ASY PRSMV 30+ RX/METABLT
0328U	DRUG ASSAY 120+ RX and METABLT
0517U	THER RX MNTR 80+ PSYACTIV RX
0518U	THER RX MNTR 90+ PN&MTL HLTH
0519U	THER RX MNTR MEDS P/D/A 110+
0520U	THER RX MNTR 200+ RX/SBSTS
0587U	THER RX MNTR 60-150 RX & METABL
0603U	RX ASY PRSMV 77RX/METABLT UR
G0480	Drug test def 1-7 classes
G0481	Drug test def 8-14 classes
G0482	Drug test def 15-21 classes
G0483	Drug test def 22+ classes
G0659	Drug test def simple all classes

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Additional Resources

Clinical Payment and Coding Policy:

CPCP020 Drug Testing (may apply for certain health benefit plans)

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Policy History

Approval Date	Description
05/15/2026	09/04/2026; Document updated with literature review. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: Added "(no more than 24 times per year)" to #1 and #2 to provide clarity and transparency on the number of tests allowed in a year to align with the remainder of the Reimbursement Information. References revised.
01/07/2026	04/24/2026; Added code 0603U. No other changes.
08/01/2025	10/01/2025; Added code 0587U effective 10/1/2025.
04/28/2025	08/08/2025; Document updated with literature review. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: Removed the following from the statement regarding applicability of the testing addressed in this policy: C. As a

	component of routine physical/medical examination; E. As a routine component of a behavioral health assessment. Under Presumptive drug screening using urine samples, removed "or substance abuse or dependence" and "at the following frequencies" from 1a. Added "General #6. In all other situations not addressed above, presumptive drug screening and definitive drugs screening are not reimbursable." Other edits made for clarity. References revised.
09/13/2024	01/01/2025: New policy.