

If a conflict arises between a Clinical Payment and Coding 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 CPCP 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 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 New Mexico may use reasonable discretion interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. BCBSNM has full and final discretionary authority for their interpretation and application to the extent provided under any applicable plan documents.

Providers are responsible for submission of 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 PCS, National Drug Codes, Diagnosis Related Group guidelines, Centers for Medicare and 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/procedures billed. Claim submissions are subject to claim review including but not limited to, any terms of benefit coverage, provider contract language, medical policies, clinical payment and coding policies as well as coding software logic. Upon request, the provider is urged to submit any additional documentation.

Epithelial Cell Cytology in Breast Cancer Risk Assessment

Policy Number: CPCPLAB024

Version 1.0

Approval Date: 09/26/2025

Plan Effective Date: 01/03/2026

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:

Cytologic analysis of epithelial cells to assess breast cancer risk and manage patients at high risk of breast cancer **is not reimbursable**.

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.

Codes
88108, 88112, 88172, 88173, 88177

References:

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11. ASBS. Screening Mammography. 2019. <https://www.breastsurgeons.org/docs/statements/Position-Statement-on-Screening-Mammography.pdf>
12. ASBS. Consensus Guideline on Concordance Assessment of Image-Guided Breast Biopsies and Management of Borderline or High-Risk Lesions. <https://www.breastsurgeons.org/docs/statements/Consensus-Guideline-on-Concordance-Assessment-of-Image-Guided-Breast-Biopsies.pdf>
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14. Williams A, Omnigraphics Inc. *Breast cancer sourcebook : basic consumer health information about the prevalence, risk factors, and symptoms of breast cancer, including ductal and lobular carcinoma in situ, invasive carcinoma, inflammatory breast cancer, and breast cancer in men and pregnant women; along with facts about benign breast changes, breast cancer screening and diagnostic tests, treatments such as surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and hormonal and biologic therapies, tips on managing treatment side effects and complications, a glossary of terms, and a directory of resources for additional help and information*. Sixth edition. ed. Omnigraphics,; 2019:1 online resource.
15. FDA. Mammography: What You Need to Know. Updated October 26, 2023. <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/mammography-what-you-need-know>
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Policy Update History:

Approval Date	Effective Date; Summary of Changes
09/26/2025	01/03/2026; Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement Information unchanged. References revised.
10/30/2024	01/15/2025; Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement Information unchanged. References revised.
03/01/2024	03/01/2024: Document updated with literature review. The following change was made to Reimbursement Information: Revised statement to indicate all cytological analysis for breast cancer diagnosis is not reimbursable. Added codes 88172, 88173, 88177. References revised.
11/01/2023	11/01/2023: Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement information unchanged. References revised.
11/1/2022	11/01/2022: New policy