



BlueCross BlueShield
of New Mexico

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.

Fecal Analysis in the Diagnosis of Intestinal Dysbiosis and Fecal Microbiota Transplant Testing

Policy Number: CPCPLAB025

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:

1. Prior to donation for a fecal microbiota transplant (FMT), analysis by bacterial culture of the donor fecal sample for the following microorganisms **may be reimbursable**:
 - a. Extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing *Enterobacteriaceae*
 - b. Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE)
 - c. Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE)
 - d. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
 - e. *Campylobacter*
 - f. *Shigella*
 - g. *Salmonella*
2. Prior to donation for a fecal microbiota transplant (FMT), analysis by nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) of the donor fecal sample for the following microorganisms **may be reimbursable**.
 - a. *Clostridium Difficile*;
 - b. *Campylobacter*;
 - c. *Salmonella*;
 - d. *Shigella*;
 - e. Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*;
 - f. Norovirus;
 - g. Rotavirus;
 - h. COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2).
3. Prior to donation for a fecal microbiota transplant (FMT), analysis by NAAT of the donor fecal sample for the following microorganisms **is not reimbursable**:
 - a. Extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing *Enterobacteriaceae*;
 - b. Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE);
 - c. Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE);
 - d. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA);
 - e. Any other microorganisms not listed above.
4. As a diagnostic test for the evaluation of intestinal dysbiosis, irritable bowel syndrome, malabsorption, or small intestinal overgrowth of bacteria, fecal analysis of the following components **is not reimbursable**:
 - a. Triglycerides;
 - b. Chymotrypsin;
 - c. Iso-butyrate, iso-valerate, and n-valerate;
 - d. Meat and vegetable fibers;
 - e. Long chain fatty acids;
 - f. Cholesterol;

- g. Total short chain fatty acids;
- h. Quantification of *Lactobacilli*, bifidobacteria, and *E. coli* and other "potential pathogens," including *Aeromona*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Campylobacter*, *Citrobacter*, *Klebsiella*, *Proteus*, *Pseudomonas*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *S. aureus*, *Vibrio*;
- i. Identification and quantitation of fecal yeast (including *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, *Rhodotorul* and *Geotrichum*);
- j. N-butyrate;
- k. Beta-glucuronidase;
- l. pH;
- m. Short chain fatty acid distribution (adequate amount and proportions of the different short chain fatty acids reflect the basic status of intestinal metabolism);
- n. Fecal secretory IgA.

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
82542, 82705, 82710, 82715, 83986, 84311, 87045, 87046, 87075, 87076, 87077, 87081, 87102, 87106, 87493, 87500, 87641, 87798, 89160, S3708

References:

- Guinane CM, Cotter PD. Role of the gut microbiota in health and chronic gastrointestinal disease: understanding a hidden metabolic organ. *Therap Adv Gastroenterol*. 2013;6(4):295-308. doi:10.1177/1756283x13482996
- Carding S, Verbeke K, Vipond DT, Corfe BM, Owen LJ. Dysbiosis of the gut microbiota in disease. *Microb Ecol Health Dis*. 2015;26doi:10.3402/mehd.v26.26191
- Marietta E, Mangalam AK, Taneja V, Murray JA. Intestinal Dysbiosis in, and Enteral Bacterial Therapies for, Systemic Autoimmune Diseases. Review. *Frontiers in Immunology*. 2020-October-28 2020;11(2760)doi:10.3389/fimmu.2020.573079
- Ley RE, Peterson DA, Gordon JI. Ecological and evolutionary forces shaping microbial diversity in the human intestine. *Cell*. Feb 24 2006;124(4):837-48. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2006.02.017
- Qin J, Li R, Raes J, et al. A human gut microbial gene catalogue established by metagenomic sequencing. *Nature*. Mar 04 2010;464(7285):59-65. doi:10.1038/nature08821
- Snapper SB, Abraham C. Immune and microbial mechanisms in the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease. Updated February 14, 2025.

- <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/immune-and-microbial-mechanisms-in-the-pathogenesis-of-inflammatory-bowel-disease>
7. Lozupone CA, Stombaugh JI, Gordon JI, Jansson JK, Knight R. Diversity, stability and resilience of the human gut microbiota. *Nature*. Sep 13 2012;489(7415):220-30. doi:10.1038/nature11550
 8. Johnston Jr RB. An overview of the innate immune system. Updated June 17, 2025. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/an-overview-of-the-innate-immune-system>
 9. Ley RE, Turnbaugh PJ, Klein S, Gordon JI. Microbial ecology: human gut microbes associated with obesity. *Nature*. Dec 21 2006;444(7122):1022-3. doi:10.1038/4441022a
 10. Zhang H, DiBaise JK, Zuccolo A, et al. Human gut microbiota in obesity and after gastric bypass. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. Feb 17 2009;106(7):2365-70. doi:10.1073/pnas.0812600106
 11. Kau AL, Ahern PP, Griffin NW, Goodman AL, Gordon JI. Human nutrition, the gut microbiome and the immune system. *Nature*. Jun 15 2011;474(7351):327-36. doi:10.1038/nature10213
 12. Qin J, Li Y, Cai Z, et al. A metagenome-wide association study of gut microbiota in type 2 diabetes. *Nature*. Oct 04 2012;490(7418):55-60. doi:10.1038/nature11450
 13. Frank DN, St Amand AL, Feldman RA, Boedeker EC, Harpaz N, Pace NR. Molecular-phylogenetic characterization of microbial community imbalances in human inflammatory bowel diseases. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. Aug 21 2007;104(34):13780-5. doi:10.1073/pnas.0706625104
 14. Parada Venegas D, De la Fuente MK, Landskron G, et al. Short Chain Fatty Acids (SCFAs)-Mediated Gut Epithelial and Immune Regulation and Its Relevance for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. *Front Immunol*. 2019;10:277. doi:10.3389/fimmu.2019.00277
 15. Raby B. Polymerase chain reaction. Updated July 21, 2025. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/polymerase-chain-reaction-pcr>
 16. Viome. What is the Gut Microbiome? <https://www.viomelifesciences.com/our-science>
 17. Viome. Viome: Demo Two's Recommendations. https://assets.ctfassets.net/qk4l4jfatr3e/5LmbY0DgNjXgFQ9kq8LWxa/f60f6d2d955b6a89be2453fecccf1103/ViomeRecommendations_Demo.pdf
 18. BioHM. <https://biohmhealth.com/>
 19. DNATestingChoice. Microbiome Testing. <https://dnatestingchoice.com/en-us/microbiome-testing>
 20. Genova. GI Effects. <https://www.gdx.net/uk/products/gi-effects>
 21. Zoetendal EG, Akkermans AD, De Vos WM. Temperature gradient gel electrophoresis analysis of 16S rRNA from human fecal samples reveals stable and host-specific communities of active bacteria. *Applied and environmental microbiology*. Oct 1998;64(10):3854-9.
 22. Casen C, Vebo HC, Sekelja M, et al. Deviations in human gut microbiota: a novel diagnostic test for determining dysbiosis in patients with IBS or IBD. *Alimentary pharmacology & therapeutics*. Jul 2015;42(1):71-83. doi:10.1111/apt.13236
 23. Pang T, Leach ST, Katz T, Day AS, Ooi CY. Fecal Biomarkers of Intestinal Health and Disease in Children. *Front Pediatr*. 2014;2doi:10.3389/fped.2014.00006

24. Bäckhed F, The Wallenberg Laboratory UoG, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden 41345, Institute for Genome Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Medicine B, MD 21201, USA, et al. Defining a Healthy Human Gut Microbiome: Current Concepts, Future Directions, and Clinical Applications. *Cell Host & Microbe*. 2012/11/15 2012;12(5):611-622. doi:10.1016/j.chom.2012.10.012
25. Berry D, Reinisch W. Intestinal microbiota: a source of novel biomarkers in inflammatory bowel diseases? *Best practice & research Clinical gastroenterology*. Feb 2013;27(1):47-58. doi:10.1016/j.bpg.2013.03.005
26. Kim KO, Gluck M. Fecal Microbiota Transplantation: An Update on Clinical Practice. *Clin Endosc*. Mar 2019;52(2):137-143. doi:10.5946/ce.2019.009
27. Falony G, Joossens M, Vieira-Silva S, et al. Population-level analysis of gut microbiome variation. *Science (New York, NY)*. Apr 29 2016;352(6285):560-4. doi:10.1126/science.aad3503
28. Zhernakova A, Kurilshikov A, Bonder MJ, et al. Population-based metagenomics analysis reveals markers for gut microbiome composition and diversity. *Science (New York, NY)*. Apr 29 2016;352(6285):565-9. doi:10.1126/science.aad3369
29. Lo Presti A, Zorzi F, Del Chierico F, et al. Fecal and Mucosal Microbiota Profiling in Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Inflammatory Bowel Disease. *Frontiers in microbiology*. 2019;10:1655. doi:10.3389/fmicb.2019.01655
30. Malham M, Lilje B, Houen G, Winther K, Andersen PS, Jakobsen C. The microbiome reflects diagnosis and predicts disease severity in paediatric onset inflammatory bowel disease. *Scandinavian journal of gastroenterology*. Jul 22 2019;1-7. doi:10.1080/00365521.2019.1644368
31. Danilova NA, Abdulkhakov SR, Grigoryeva TV, et al. Markers of dysbiosis in patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. *Terapevticheskii arkhiv*. May 15 2019;91(4):17-24. doi:10.26442/00403660.2019.04.000211
32. Vaughn BP, Rank KM, Khoruts A. Fecal Microbiota Transplantation: Current Status in Treatment of GI and Liver Disease. *Clinical gastroenterology and hepatology : the official clinical practice journal of the American Gastroenterological Association*. Jul 25 2018;doi:10.1016/j.cgh.2018.07.026
33. Holleran G, Scaldaferri F, Ianaro G, et al. Fecal microbiota transplantation for the treatment of patients with ulcerative colitis and other gastrointestinal conditions beyond *Clostridium difficile* infection: an update. *Drugs of today (Barcelona, Spain : 1998)*. Feb 2018;54(2):123-136. doi:10.1358/dot.2018.54.2.2760765
34. Costello SP, Hughes PA, Waters O, et al. Effect of Fecal Microbiota Transplantation on 8-Week Remission in Patients With Ulcerative Colitis: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *Jama*. Jan 15 2019;321(2):156-164. doi:10.1001/jama.2018.20046
35. Myneedu K, Deoker A, Schmulson MJ, Bashashati M. Fecal microbiota transplantation in irritable bowel syndrome: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *United European Gastroenterol J*. Oct 2019;7(8):1033-1041. doi:10.1177/2050640619866990
36. Saha S, Mara K, Pardi DS, Khanna S. Long-term Safety of Fecal Microbiota Transplantation for Recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* Infection. *Gastroenterology*. May 2021;160(6):1961-1969.e3. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2021.01.010
37. Yu EW, Gao L, Stastka P, et al. Fecal microbiota transplantation for the improvement of metabolism in obesity: The FMT-TRIM double-blind placebo-

- controlled pilot trial. *PLoS Med.* Mar 2020;17(3):e1003051.
doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1003051
38. Macareño-Castro J, Solano-Salazar A, Dong LT, Mohiuddin M, Espinoza JL. Fecal microbiota transplantation for Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae: A systematic review. *J Infect.* Jun 2022;84(6):749-759. doi:10.1016/j.jinf.2022.04.028
 39. Oneto C, Khanna S. Prescription Microbiome Therapeutic for Recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* Infection: Fecal Microbiota Live-jslm. *Official journal of the American College of Gastroenterology | ACG.* 2024;119(1S)
 40. Hunt R, Quigley E, Abbas Z, et al. Coping With Common Gastrointestinal Symptoms in the Community: A Global Perspective on Heartburn, Constipation, Bloating, and Abdominal Pain/Discomfort May 2013. *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology.* 2014;48(7)doi:10.1097/MCG.0000000000000141
 41. Bernstein CN, Eliakim A, Fedail S, et al. World Gastroenterology Organisation Global Guidelines Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Update August 2015. *J Clin Gastroenterol.* Nov/Dec 2016;50(10):803-818.
doi:10.1097/mcg.0000000000000660
 42. Colombel JF, Shin A, Gibson PR. AGA Clinical Practice Update on Functional Gastrointestinal Symptoms in Patients With Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Expert Review. *Clinical gastroenterology and hepatology : the official clinical practice journal of the American Gastroenterological Association.* Feb 2019;17(3):380-390.e1.
doi:10.1016/j.cgh.2018.08.001
 43. Kelly CR, Kahn S, Kashyap P, et al. Update on Fecal Microbiota Transplantation 2015: Indications, Methodologies, Mechanisms, and Outlook. *Gastroenterology.* 2015;149(1):223-237. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2015.05.008
 44. Peery AF, Kelly CR, Kao D, et al. AGA Clinical Practice Guideline on Fecal Microbiota-Based Therapies for Select Gastrointestinal Diseases. *Gastroenterology.* 2024;166(3):409-434. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2024.01.008
 45. Lichtenstein GR, Loftus EV, Isaacs KL, Regueiro MD, Gerson LB, Sands BE. ACG Clinical Guideline: Management of Crohn's Disease in Adults. *Official journal of the American College of Gastroenterology | ACG.* 2018;113(4)doi:10.1038/ajg.2018.27
 46. Rubin DT, Ananthakrishnan AN, Siegel CA, Sauer BG, Long MD. ACG Clinical Guideline: Ulcerative Colitis in Adults. *Official journal of the American College of Gastroenterology | ACG.* 2019;114(3)doi:10.14309/ajg.0000000000000152
 47. Lacy BE, Pimentel M, Brenner DM, et al. ACG Clinical Guideline: Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome. *Am J Gastroenterol.* Jan 1 2021;116(1):17-44.
doi:10.14309/ajg.00000000000001036
 48. Kelly CR, Fischer M, Allegretti JR, et al. ACG Clinical Guidelines: Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment of *Clostridioides difficile* Infections. *Official journal of the American College of Gastroenterology | ACG.* 2021;116(6):1124-1147.
doi:10.14309/ajg.00000000000001278
 49. Maaser C, Sturm A, Vavricka SR, et al. ECCO-ESGAR Guideline for Diagnostic Assessment in IBD Part 1: Initial diagnosis, monitoring of known IBD, detection of complications. *Journal of Crohn's and Colitis.* 2019;13(2):144-164K.
doi:10.1093/ecco-jcc/jjy113
 50. Guarino A, Ashkenazi S, Gendrel D, Lo Vecchio A, Shamir R, Szajewska H. European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition/European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases Evidence-Based

- Guidelines for the Management of Acute Gastroenteritis in Children in Europe: Update 2014. 2014;59(1):132-152. doi:10.1097/mpg.0000000000000375
51. NICE. Irritable bowel syndrome in adults: diagnosis and management. Updated April 4, 2017. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg61/chapter/1-Recommendations#diagnosis-of-ibs>
52. Arasaradnam RP, Brown S, Forbes A, et al. Guidelines for the investigation of chronic diarrhoea in adults: British Society of Gastroenterology, 3rd edition. *Gut*. 2018;67(8):1380. doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2017-315909
53. Lamb CA, Kennedy NA, Raine T, et al. Correction: British Society of Gastroenterology consensus guidelines on the management of inflammatory bowel disease in adults. *Gut*. 2021;68(Suppl 3):s1. doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2019-318484corr1
54. Mullish BH, Quraishi MN, Segal JP, et al. The use of faecal microbiota transplant as treatment for recurrent or refractory *Clostridium difficile* infection and other potential indications: joint British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) and Healthcare Infection Society (HIS) guidelines. *Gut*. 2018;67(11):1920. doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2018-316818
55. IDSA/ACG/ASGE/AGA/NASPGHAN. Current Consensus Guidance on Donor Screening and Stool Testing for FMT. Updated July, 15, 2013. [https://www.naspghan.org/files/documents/Joint_Scty_Sign-on_FDA%20FMT_final%207.15.13%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.naspghan.org/files/documents/Joint_Scty_Sign-on_FDA%20FMT_final%207.15.13%20(1).pdf)
56. Davidovics ZH, Michail S, Nicholson MR, et al. Fecal Microbiota Transplantation for Recurrent *Clostridium difficile* Infection and Other Conditions in Children: A Joint Position Paper From the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and the European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition. *Journal of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition*. Jan 2019;68(1):130-143. doi:10.1097/mpg.0000000000002205
57. Michail S, Nicholson M, Kahn S, Kellermayer R. Addendum for: Fecal Microbiota Transplantation for Recurrent *Clostridium difficile* Infection and Other Conditions in Children: A Joint Position Paper From the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and the European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition. *Journal of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition*. 2020;70(3)doi:10.1097/MPG.0000000000002205.
58. FDA. Fecal Microbiota for Transplantation: Safety Communication- Risk of Serious Adverse Reactions Due to Transmission of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms. <https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-safety-alerts-human-medical-products/fecal-microbiota-transplantation-safety-communication-risk-serious-adverse-reactions-due>
59. FDA. Fecal Microbiota for Transplantation: New Safety Information - Regarding Additional Protections for Screening Donors for COVID-19 and Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and Testing for SARS-CoV-2. <https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/fecal-microbiota-transplantation-new-safety-information-regarding-additional-protections-screening>
60. FDA. Fecal Microbiota for Transplantation: Safety Alert - Risk of Serious Adverse Events Likely Due to Transmission of Pathogenic Organisms. Updated April 7, 2020. <https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/fecal->

microbiota-transplantation-safety-alert-risk-serious-adverse-events-likely-due-transmission

61. Bakken JS, Borody T, Brandt LJ, et al. Treating Clostridium Difficile Infection With Fecal Microbiota Transplantation. *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. 2011;9(12):1044-1049. doi:10.1016/j.cgh.2011.08.014

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. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: Edited #1, #2, #3 to clarify that fecal microbiota transplantation testing is on the sample coming from the donor. #4.h edited for clarity. Added codes 87076, 87077, 87081, 87106; removed codes 82239, 82725, 82784, 83520, 83630, 87177, 87209, 87328, 87329, 87336. References revised; some added, some updated, others removed.
03/01/2024	03/01/2024: Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement Information revised for clarity. Added codes 82239, 82725, 82784, 83520, 83630, 87177, 87209, 87328, 87329, 87336; and removed codes 87076, 87077, 87081, 87106. 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