

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.

Testing for Diagnosis of Active or Latent Tuberculosis

Policy Number: CPCPLAB027

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. To diagnose or screen for latent tuberculosis (TB) infection, an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) **may be reimbursable** in:
 - a. Individuals who are at risk for infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb);
 - b. Individuals who are unlikely to be infected with Mtb when screening is obliged by law.
2. For all suspected TB infections, the following tests **may be reimbursable**:
 - a. Acid fast bacilli (AFB) smear/stain
 - b. Culture and culture-based drug susceptibility testing of *Mycobacteria* spp.
 - c. Qualitative nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) for *Mycobacteria* spp., *M. tuberculosis*, and *M. avium* complex.
3. For individuals whose sputum is AFB smear positive or NAAT positive, molecular-based drug susceptibility testing **may be reimbursable** when **one** of the following criteria is met:
 - a. The individual has been treated for TB in the past.
 - b. The individual was born in or has lived for at least 1 year in a foreign country with at least a moderate TB incidence (≥ 20 per 100,000) or a high primary multi-drug resistant (MDR)-TB prevalence ($\geq 2\%$).
 - c. The individual is a contact of an individual with MDR-TB;
 - d. The individual is HIV infected.
4. Repeat drug susceptibility testing **may be reimbursable** in **any** of the following situations:
 - a. For individuals whose sputum cultures remain positive after 3 months of treatment.
 - b. When there is bacteriological reversion from negative to positive.
5. For individuals with pleural effusion, pericardial effusion, or ascites and suspected TB infection, cell counts, protein, glucose, and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) concentrations of cerebrospinal, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, and other fluids **may be reimbursable**.
6. In HIV-infected individuals with CD4 cell counts ≤ 100 cells/microL who have signs and symptoms of tuberculosis, urine-based detection of mycobacterial cell wall glycolipid lipoarabinomannan (LAM) **may be reimbursable**.
7. For individuals with active tuberculosis, interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) **is not reimbursable**.

8. Quantitative nucleic acid testing for *Mycobacterium spp*, *M. tuberculosis*, and *M. avium* complex **is not reimbursable**.
9. Testing of adenosine deaminase (ADA) and interferon-gamma (IFN- γ) levels in cerebrospinal, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, and other fluids for the diagnosis of extrapulmonary TB **are not reimbursable**.
10. Testing of serum protein biomarkers or panels of biomarkers for the detection and diagnosis of TB **are 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
81099, 82945, 83520, 83615, 84157, 84311, 86480, 86481, 87070, 87077, 87116, 87150, 87153, 87181, 87184, 87185, 87186, 87187, 87188, 87190, 87206, 87551, 87552, 87556, 87557, 87561, 87562, 87564, 0574U

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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. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: Added to #2: Qualitative nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) for Mycobacteria spp., M tuberculosis, and M. avium complex. That resulted in removal of #3 and #9 as direct probe testing is no longer available. Now #3 – replaced “Hologic Amplified MTD” with “NAAT” for clarity; now #8 updated “M. avium intracellulare” to “M. avium complex” to align with updated naming convention. Added codes 87564, 0574U; removed codes 87149, 87550, 87555, 87560. References revised.
10/30/2024	01/15/2025: Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement Information unchanged. References revised; some added, others updated.
02/01/2024	02/01/2024: Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement information revised for clarity. References revised.
11/01/2023	11/01/2023: Document updated with literature review. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: #2 and #3 were combined and now reads: For all suspected TB infections, the following tests may be reimbursable: Acid fast bacilli (AFB) smear/stain; Culture and culture-based drug susceptibility testing of Mycobacteria spp. Add #4 For patients whose sputum is AFB smear positive or Hologic Amplified MTD positive, molecular-based drug susceptibility testing may be reimbursable when one of the following criteria is met: a. The individual has been treated for TB in the past. b. The individual was born in or has lived for at least 1 year in a foreign country with at least a moderate TB incidence (≥ 20 per 100,000) or a high primary multi-drug resistant (MDR)-TB prevalence ($\geq 2\%$). c. The individual is a contact of an individual with MDR-TB; d. The individual is HIV infected. Other revisions made for clarity. References updated.
11/1/2022	11/01/2022: New policy