

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.

Oral Cancer Screening and Testing

Policy Number: CPCPLAB032

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 establish HPV tumor status for individuals with oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma or with metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of unknown primary origin in a cervical lymph node, testing for high-risk HPV testing with either mRNA expression testing for HPV E6/E7 or immunohistochemistry **may be reimbursable**.
2. To screen, detect or diagnose oral cancer, the following testing **is not reimbursable**:
 - a. Salivary biomarker testing (e.g., peptides/proteins, nucleic acids, metabolites).
 - b. Panels that incorporate genetic risk factors with nongenetic biomarkers (e.g., mRNA CancerDetect™).
 - c. Detection of HPV from an oropharyngeal swab (e.g., OmniPathology Oropharyngeal HPV PCR Test).

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
81599, 82397, 87624, 87625, 87626, 88341, 88342, 0429U

References:

1. Gross N, Lee N, Okuno S, Rao S. Treatment of stage I and II (early) head and neck cancer: The oral cavity. Updated April 11, 2025.
<https://www.uptodate.com/contents/treatment-of-stage-i-and-ii-early-head-and-neck-cancer-the-oral-cavity>
2. Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2019. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*. 2019;69(1):7-34. doi:10.3322/caac.21551
3. ACS. Key Statistics for Oral Cavity and Oropharyngeal Cancers.
<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/oral-cavity-and-oropharyngeal-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

4. Scully C, Porter S. ABC of oral health. Oral cancer. *BMJ (Clinical research ed)*. 2000;321(7253):97-100.
5. Dhanuthai K, Rojanawatsirivej S, Thosaporn W, et al. Oral cancer: A multicenter study. *Med Oral Patol Oral Cir Bucal*. 2018;23(1):e23-e29. doi:10.4317/medoral.21999
6. Warnakulasuriya S, Johnson NW, van der Waal I. Nomenclature and classification of potentially malignant disorders of the oral mucosa. *Journal of oral pathology & medicine : official publication of the International Association of Oral Pathologists and the American Academy of Oral Pathology*. 2007;36(10):575-80. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0714.2007.00582.x
7. Brocklehurst P, Kujan O, O'Malley L, Ogden GR, Shepherd S, Glenny AM. Screening programmes for the early detection and prevention of oral cancer. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2013;(11)doi:10.1002/14651858.CD004150.pub4
8. van der Waal I. Potentially malignant disorders of the oral and oropharyngeal mucosa; terminology, classification and present concepts of management. *Oral oncology*. 2009;45(4-5):317-23. doi:10.1016/j.oraloncology.2008.05.016
9. Borsetto D, Cheng J, Payne K, et al. Surveillance of HPV-Positive Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma with Circulating and Salivary DNA Biomarkers. *Crit Rev Oncog*. 2018;23(3-4):235-245. doi:10.1615/CritRevOncog.2018027689
10. CDC. About Genital HPV Infection. <https://www.cdc.gov/sti/about/about-genital-hpv-infection.html>
11. Lodi G. Oral Lesions. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/oral-lesions>
12. Lingen MW, Kalmar JR, Karrison T, Speight PM. Critical evaluation of diagnostic aids for the detection of oral cancer. *Oral oncology*. 2008;44(1):10-22. doi:10.1016/j.oraloncology.2007.06.011
13. Patton LL, Epstein JB, Kerr AR. Adjunctive techniques for oral cancer examination and lesion diagnosis: a systematic review of the literature. *Journal of the American Dental Association (1939)*. 2008;139(7):896-905; quiz 993-4.
14. Fedele S. Diagnostic aids in the screening of oral cancer. *Head & neck oncology*. 2009;1:5. doi:10.1186/1758-3284-1-5
15. Seoane Leston J, Diz Dios P. Diagnostic clinical aids in oral cancer. *Oral oncology*. 2010;46(6):418-22. doi:10.1016/j.oraloncology.2010.03.006
16. Rethman MP, Carpenter W, Cohen EE, et al. Evidence-based clinical recommendations regarding screening for oral squamous cell carcinomas. *Journal of the American Dental Association (1939)*. 2010;141(5):509-20.

17. Speight PM, Epstein J, Kujan O, et al. Screening for oral cancer-a perspective from the Global Oral Cancer Forum. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol*. 2017;123(6):680-687. doi:10.1016/j.oooo.2016.08.021
18. Macey R, Walsh T, Brocklehurst P, et al. Diagnostic tests for oral cancer and potentially malignant disorders in patients presenting with clinically evident lesions. *The Cochrane database of systematic reviews*. 2015;(5):Cd010276. doi:10.1002/14651858.CD010276.pub2
19. Lim Y, Wan Y, Vagenas D, et al. Salivary DNA methylation panel to diagnose HPV-positive and HPV-negative head and neck cancers. *BMC Cancer*. 2016;16(1):749. doi:10.1186/s12885-016-2785-0
20. NCCN. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology - Head and Neck Cancers Version 4.2025. https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/head-and-neck.pdf
21. Liyanage C, Wathupola A, Muraleetharan S, Perera K, Punyadeera C, Udagama P. Promoter Hypermethylation of Tumor-Suppressor Genes p16(INK4a), RASSF1A, TIMP3, and PCQAP/MED15 in Salivary DNA as a Quadruple Biomarker Panel for Early Detection of Oral and Oropharyngeal Cancers. *Biomolecules*. 2019;9(4)doi:10.3390/biom9040148
22. Kaur J, Jacobs R, Huang Y, Salvo N, Politis C. Salivary biomarkers for oral cancer and pre-cancer screening: a review. *Clin Oral Investig*. 2018;22(2):633-640. doi:10.1007/s00784-018-2337-x
23. OralDNA. OraRisk® HPV Complete Genotyping. <https://www.oraldna.com/test/ohpv-complete/>
24. Omnipathology. OROPHARYNGEAL HPV TESTING. 2025. <https://www.omnipathology.com/oral-hpv-testing>
25. Lewis JS, Jr, Beadle B, Bishop JA, et al. Human Papillomavirus Testing in Head and Neck Carcinomas: Guideline Update. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*. 2025;149(6):e115-e150. doi:10.5858/arpa.2024-0388-CP
26. Nagi R, Reddy-Kantharaj YB, Rakesh N, Janardhan-Reddy S, Sahu S. Efficacy of light based detection systems for early detection of oral cancer and oral potentially malignant disorders: Systematic review. *Med Oral Patol Oral Cir Bucal*. 2016;21(4):e447-55. doi:10.4317/medoral.21104
27. Shaw AK, Garcha V, Shetty V, et al. Diagnostic Accuracy of Salivary Biomarkers in Detecting Early Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention*. 2022;23(5):1483-1495. doi:10.31557/apjcp.2022.23.5.1483
28. Lingen MW, Abt E, Agrawal N, et al. Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for the evaluation of potentially malignant disorders in the oral cavity: A report of

the American Dental Association. *The Journal of the American Dental Association*. 2017;148(10):712-727.e10. doi:10.1016/j.adaj.2017.07.032

29. Alsarraf AH, Kujan O, Farah CS. The utility of oral brush cytology in the early detection of oral cancer and oral potentially malignant disorders: A systematic review. *Journal of oral pathology & medicine : official publication of the International Association of Pathologists and the American Academy of Oral Pathology*. 2018;47(2):104-116. doi:10.1111/jop.12660
30. Jain A, Kotimoole CN, Ghoshal S, et al. Identification of potential salivary biomarker panels for oral squamous cell carcinoma. *Scientific Reports*. 2021;11(1):3365. doi:10.1038/s41598-021-82635-0
31. Mascitti M, Orsini G, Tosco V, et al. An Overview on Current Non-invasive Diagnostic Devices in Oral Oncology. *Front Physiol*. 2018;9:1510-1510. doi:10.3389/fphys.2018.01510
32. Ribeiro IP, Esteves L, Santos A, et al. A seven-gene signature to predict the prognosis of oral squamous cell carcinoma. *Oncogene*. 2021;40(22):3859-3869. doi:10.1038/s41388-021-01806-5
33. Moyer VA, Botot U, S. Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for Oral Cancer: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2014;160(1):55-60. doi:10.7326/M13-2568
34. Lewis JS, Jr., Beadle B, Bishop JA, et al. Human Papillomavirus Testing in Head and Neck Carcinomas: Guideline From the College of American Pathologists. *Arch Pathol Lab Med*. 2018;142(5):559-597. doi:10.5858/arpa.2017-0286-CP
35. Fakhry C, Lacchetti C, Rooper LM, et al. Human Papillomavirus Testing in Head and Neck Carcinomas: ASCO Clinical Practice Guideline Endorsement of the College of American Pathologists Guideline. *J Clin Oncol*. 2018;36(31):3152-3161. doi:10.1200/jco.2018.00684
36. Maghami E, Ismaila N, Alvarez A, et al. Diagnosis and Management of Squamous Cell Carcinoma of Unknown Primary in the Head and Neck: ASCO Guideline. *J Clin Oncol*. 2020;38(22):2570-2596. doi:10.1200/jco.20.00275
37. Machiels JP, René Leemans C, Golusinski W, Grau C, Licitra L, Gregoire V. Squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, larynx, oropharynx and hypopharynx: EHS-ESMO-ESTRO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. *Ann Oncol*. 2020;31(11):1462-1475. doi:10.1016/j.annonc.2020.07.011

Policy Update History:

Approval Date	Effective Date; Summary of Changes
09/26/2025	01/03/2026; Document updated with literature review. The following change was made to Reimbursement Information: Added "or with metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of unknown primary origin in a cervical lymph node" to #1, which now reads: "1) To establish HPV tumor status for individuals with oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma or with metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of unknown primary origin in a cervical lymph node, testing for high-risk HPV with either mRNA expression testing for HPV E6/E7 or immunohistochemistry for p16 expression may be reimbursable." Added #2: To screen, detect or diagnose oral cancer, the following testing is not reimbursable: a. Salivary biomarker testing (e.g., peptides/proteins, nucleic acids, metabolites). b. Panels that incorporate genetic risk factors with nongenetic biomarkers (e.g., mRNA CancerDetect™). c. Detection of HPV from an oropharyngeal swab (e.g., OmniPathology Oropharyngeal HPV PCR Test). Removed code 0296U. References revised.
01/23/2025	04/15/2025; Added code 87626. No other changes.
10/30/2024	01/15/2025; Document updated with literature review. The following change was made to Reimbursement Information: Revised #1 for intent of test; added "To establish HPV tumor status..." Added code 0429U; removed code 87623. References revised; some added, some updated, others removed.
11/01/2023	11/01/2023: Document updated with literature review. Title changed from Oral Screening Lesion Identification Systems and Genetic Screening. Reimbursement information revised for clarity. References revised.
11/01/2022	11/01/2022: New policy