



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.

Urine Culture Testing for Bacteria

Policy Number: CPCPLAB050

Version 1.0

Approval Date: October 30, 2024

Plan Effective Date: January 15, 2025

Description

BCBSNM 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

For guidance on pathogen panel testing from urine samples, please see CPCPLAB045 Pathogen Panel Testing.

1. For pregnant individuals, urine culture testing (with isolate identification and antibiotic susceptibilities if applicable) for a urinary tract infection (UTI), **may be reimbursable**.
2. For asymptomatic individuals undergoing urological interventions which breach the mucosa, urine culture testing (with isolate identification and antibiotic susceptibilities if applicable) **may be reimbursable** prior to the procedure.
3. For individuals exhibiting at least one sign or symptom of possible UTI or bacteriuria (See **Note 1**), urine culture testing (with isolate identification and antibiotic susceptibilities if applicable) **may be reimbursable**.
4. To assess pyelonephritis, urine culture testing (with isolate identification and antibiotic susceptibilities if applicable) **may be reimbursable**.
5. For all other instances of asymptomatic urinary tract infection or asymptomatic bacteriuria not described above, urine culture testing (with isolate identification and antibiotic susceptibilities if applicable) **is not reimbursable**.
6. For individuals that show evidence of clinical resolution of infection, follow-up urine culture testing for an uncomplicated urinary tract infection **is not reimbursable**.
7. Urine culture testing (with isolate identification and antibiotic susceptibilities if applicable) **is not reimbursable** in **any** of the following situations:
 - a. As a part of initial screening for asymptomatic prostatitis;
 - b. As a part of assessment or prognosis of prostate biopsy.

NOTE 1: Signs and symptoms of UTI/bacteriuria include (CDC, 2024)

- Fever
- Urgency to urinate

- Feeling the need to urinate despite having an empty bladder
- Increased frequency of urination
- Dysuria
- Suprapubic tenderness
- Pyuria
- Hematuria
- Cloudy urine
- Lower Back and Side (flank) pain
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Chills
- Night sweats
- Pelvic pressure
- Change in urine smell
- Abnormal urinalysis findings

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
87077, 87086, 87088, 87140, 87147, 87149, 87181, 87186

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Policy Update History

Approval Date	Effective Date; Summary of Changes
10/30/2024	01/15/2025: Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement Information unchanged. References revised.
11/01/2023	11/01/2023: Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement Information revised for clarity; "women" or "patients" changed to "individuals" throughout. References revised.
11/1/2022	11/01/2022: New policy