

Laboratory Summary: Common Medical Policy Edits

This guide is designed to summarize specific medical policy guidelines for certain laboratory services commonly provided to our members. Use this as a guide after reading the complete policy when ordering lab tests. Please visit the Medical Policies and Clinical Guidelines pages on **www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com** and **www.BlueChoiceSC.com** frequently to read all laboratory policies in their entirety and to stay abreast of all policy changes. From the Categorical List, choose Laboratory to search for any of the ten medical policies included in this summary. Note: procedure codes on each Medical Policy document are not a guarantee of payment and are included only as a general reference tool. They may not be all-inclusive.

Use this guide as a quick reference tool only. Refer to the complete medical policy for specific details. Coverage criteria may vary, no guarantee of payment is implied. Visit **www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com** or **www.BlueChoiceSC.com**, and then go to the Education Center for the Medical Policies page.

Laboratory Medical Policy Denial Reasons

These are the policy rule criteria used to determine coverage of laboratory services.

POLICY RULE	DEFINITION	
Experimental and Investigational	Procedure is not covered under the member's benefit due to exclusion	
Demographic Limitations	Limitations based on patient age	
Excessive Procedure Units	Total units within and across claims for a single date of service more than necessary	
Excessive Units per Period of Time	Maximum allowable units within a defined period of time has been exceeded	
Insufficient Time Between Procedures	Minimum time required before a second procedure is warranted	
Rendering Provider Limitations	Providers/Procedures not permitted in combination	
Diagnosis Does Not Support Test Requested	Procedure was not appropriate for the clinical situation	
Mutually Exclusive Codes	The procedure is not valid with other procedures on the same date of service	



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Vitamin B12

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY
82607	83921	130



TIP! Using the appropriate procedure codes and diagnosis codes are essential when rendering laboratory services.

Elderly individuals being evaluated for d	ementia
Individuals with unexplained macrocytic	anemia.
Individuals with unexplained neurologica cognitive changes and personality changes are supplemented by the second s	al symptoms such as paresthesias, peripheral neuropathy, memory lapses, ges.
Individuals with the following risk factor	rs:
 Reduced intestinal absorption Crohn's disease Gastric or ileal resection Atrophic gastritis 	 Pernicious anemia Prolonged use (at least 12 months) of proton pump inhibitors or H2 blockers Prolonged use (at least 4 months) of metformin Vegan diet

When performed no sooner than 3 months after initiation of therapy for individuals undergoing treatment for vitamin B12 deficiency.

Methylmalonic acid testing to confirm vitamin B12 deficiency in individuals with borderline-low vitamin B12 levels.

Methylmalonic acid testing for the evaluation of inborn errors of metabolism, which is out of scope for this policy.

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

In healthy, asymptomatic individuals.

Methylmalonic acid testing for diagnosis of vitamin B12 deficiency in the absence of an abnormally low vitamin B12 result.

Homocysteine testing for the confirmation of vitamin B12 deficiency.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Diagnosis Vaginitis/PCR Testing

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY	
82120	87480	87512	
83986	87481	87660	
87070	87482	87661	20416
87149	87510	87800	20416
87150	87511	87808	
		87905	



TIP! Using the appropriate procedure codes and diagnosis codes are essential when rendering laboratory services.

Current as of April 2018

MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Rapid Flu Tests

PROCEDURE CODE(S)	CAM POLICY
87804	134

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Direct Probe DNA-based identification of Gardnerella, Trichomonas, and Candida in patients with symptoms of vaginitis..

Vaginal cultures for Candida species for the diagnosis of vulvovaginal candidiasis in patients with clinical signs and symptoms of vaginitis and negative findings on wet-mount preparations and a normal pH test.

Measurement of sialidase activity in vaginal fluid is for the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis in women with symptoms of vaginitis.

Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based identification of Trichomonas in patients with symptoms of vaginitis.

Screening for Trichomonas for women with risk factors including: new or multiple partners; history of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), exchange of sex for payment; or injection drug use.

Testing of pH, testing for the presence of amines, saline wet mount, hydrogen peroxide (KOH) wet mount and microscopic examination of vaginal fluids in patients with symptoms of vaginitis.

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Screening for trichomoniasis and bacterial vaginosis in asymptomatic patients, including asymptomatic pregnant patients at average or high risk for premature labor.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) based identification of Candida species for any indication.

Rapid identification of Trichomonas by enzyme immunoassay is in patients with symptoms of vaginitis.

PCR testing and Multi-target polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis.

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

In an outpatient setting as a technique to guide decisions about diagnosis and treatment of patients who present signs and symptoms consistent with influenza disease.

Current as of October 2017



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY **Lipid Panels**

PROCEDURE	PROCEDURE CODE(S)	
80061	83721	132



MEDICALLY NECESSARY

When assessing lipid abnormalities associated with cardiovascular disease in the following individuals:

- Men aged 35 and older every 5 years.
- Annual screening for dyslipidemia with a fasting lipid profile or a non-fasting non-HDL-C for children and adolescents, if they are at increased risk.
- Annual screening for men aged 20 to 35, if they are at increased risk for coronary heart disease.
- Annual screening for women aged 45 and older, if they are at risk for coronary heart disease.
- Annual screening for women aged 20 to 45, if they are at increased risk for coronary heart disease.

• A family history of cardiovascular disease before age 50 in

When the increased risk for coronary heart disease includes of one or more of the following risk factors, and more risk factors indicate greater risk:

- Diabetes
- Previous personal history of CHD or nonmale relatives or 60 in female relatives coronary atherosclerosis (e.g., abdominal Hypertension Tobacco use/smoking aortic aneurysm, peripheral artery disease, • Obesity (BMI > 30) carotid artery stenosis)

When evaluating an individual diagnosed with diseases associated with dyslipidemia, including, but not limited to:

- Hyperthyroidism Nephrotic Syndrome Hypothyroidism Pancreatitis

Before beginning statin therapy, to establish baseline levels for monitoring therapy.

Direct measurement of LDL cholesterol for individuals with triglyceride levels over 400 mg/dL, as calculated LDL cholesterol is inaccurate at elevated triglyceride concentrations.

Testing for individuals receiving statin therapy, up to every four to 12 weeks after initiation or change of therapy and annual lipid panel testing for individuals receiving statin therapy.

When evaluating and managing an individual diagnosed with HIV and receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART):

- Prior to initiating ART (baseline).
- Within one to three months after starting or modifying ART.
- Every 6 to 12 months thereafter.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Measurement of apolipoprotein B (CPT 82172) is investigational and does not meet coverage criteria as an adjunct to LDL cholesterol in the risk assessment and management of cardiovascular disease. See also CAM POLICY 20465.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Vitamin D Testing

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY
82306	82652	126



TIP! Laboratory tests performed by any provider type are subject to frequency limitations.

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Twenty-five hydroxy-vitamin D serum testing for individuals with an underlying disease or condition that is specifically associated with vitamin D deficiency or decreased bone density.

D2 and D3 fractions of 25 hydroxy-vitamin D as part of the total 25 hydroxy-vitamin D analysis.

Repeat serum testing for individuals who have documented vitamin D deficiency, at least 12 weeks after initiation of vitamin D supplementation therapy. 1,25-dihydroxy serum testing for the evaluation or treatment of conditions that are associated with defects in vitamin D metabolism.

- Repeat testing for monitoring of supplementation therapy should not exceed 2 testing instances per year until the therapeutic goal is achieved.
- Once therapeutic range has been reached, annual testing meets coverage criteria.

Indications That Support Coverage Criteria For Serum Measurement Of 25 Hydroxy-Vitamin D:

- Biliary cirrhosis and other specified disorders of the biliary tract
- Blind loop syndrome
- Celiac disease
- Coronary artery disease where risk of disease progression is considered against benefits of chronic vitamin D and calcium therapy
- Dermatomyositis
- Hypercalcemia, hypocalcemia or other disorders of calcium metabolism
- Hyperparathyroidism or hypoparathyroidism

- Individuals receiving hyperalimentation
- Intestinal malabsorption
- Liver cirrhosis
- Long-term use of anticonvulsants, glucocorticoids and other medications known to lower vitamin D levels
- Lymphoma
- Malnutrition
- Myalgia and other myositis not specified
- Myopathy related to endocrine diseases

• Primary or miliary tuberculosis

• Renal, ureteral or urinary calculus

- Obesity
- Osteogenesis imperfecta

- Hypervitaminosis of vitamin D
- Osteomalacia
- Osteopetrosis
- Osteoporosis
- Pancreatic steatorrhea
- Primary or miliary tuberculosis
- Psoriasis
- Regional enteritis
- Renal, ureteral or urinary calculus
- Rickets
- Sarcoidosis

Sarcoidosis

Disease

- Stage III-V Chronic Kidney Disease and End Stage Renal Disease
- Systemic lupus erythematosus

Individuals receiving

hyperalimentation

• Stage III-V Chronic Kidney

Disease and End Stage Renal

Indications That Support Medical Necessity For Serum Testing Of 1,25 Dihydroxy-Vitamin D:

Osteomalacia

Osteopetrosis

- Disorders of calcium metabolism
- Familial hypophosphatemia
- Hyperparathyroidism or hypoparathyroidism

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

1,25 dihydroxy serum testing and screening of vitamin D deficiency.

Routine screening for vitamin D deficiency with serum testing.

Current as of January 2018

- Neonatal hypocalcemia Osteogenesis imperfecta
- Fanconi syndrome
- Rickets



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Hemoglobin A1C

PROCEDURE CODE(S)			CAM POLICY
81506	83036	83037	133



- **TIP!** Laboratory tests performed by any provider type are subject to frequency limitations.

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

For individuals with a diagnosis of either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes as follows:

- Upon initial diagnosis to establish a baseline value and to determine treatment goals.
- **Quarterly** in individuals who are not meeting treatment goals for glycemic control.
- **Quarterly** in individuals whose pharmacologic therapy has changed.
- Twice a year (every six months) in individuals who are meeting treatment goals and who, based on daily glucose monitoring, appear to have stable glycemic control.

Screening for Type 2 diabetes with fasting plasma glucose test or hemoglobin A1c test:

- Once a year for pre-diabetic individuals.
- Once in three years for asymptomatic individuals with normal blood glucose levels.

To help in detection and diagnosis of pre-diabetes or Type 2 diabetes in asymptomatic individuals at increased risk, as defined by the ADA (individuals who are overweight or obese (BMI \ge 25 or \ge 23 in Asian Americans) and have at least one other risk factor for diabetes – physical inactivity; first-degree relative with diabetes; high-risk race/ ethnicity (e.g., African American, Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander); women who delivered a baby weighing over 9 lbs. or were diagnosed with GDM; hypertension; low HDL cholesterol level and/or elevated triglyceride level; elevated A1C (\ge 5.7%), IGT or IFG on previous testing; other clinical conditions associated with insulin resistance (e.g., severe obesity, acanthosis nigricans, atypical antipsychotics, polycystic ovary syndrome); and history of CVD).

Screening for abnormal blood glucose as part of cardiovascular risk assessment in adults ages 40 to 70 years who are overweight or obese.

Once every three years for children 10 years and older who are at increased risk, as defined by the ADA (children who are overweight/obese and have two or more risk factors that include family history of Type 2 diabetes in first- or second-degree relative; race/ethnicity of Native American, African American, Latino, Asian American, Pacific Islander; signs of insulin resistance; maternal history of diabetes or gestational diabetes).

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

For individuals who have been transfused within the past 120 days.

For individuals with a condition that is accompanied by a shortened red blood cell lifespan.

Measurement of hemoglobin A1C in conjunction with measurement of fructosamine.

Measurement of hemoglobin A1C in individuals who have been transfused within the past 120 days.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Panel testing of biochemical markers for Type 2 diabetes risk.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Hepatitis C Testing

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY
86803	87521	
86804	87522	127
87520	87902	

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

A one-time screening for Hepatitis C infection for adults born between 1945 and 1965.

Testing for the following situations:

- Illicit drug use: Injection or intranasal
- Receipt of clotting factor concentrates produced before 1987
- History of or current hemodialysis
- Evidence of liver disease

- Presence of HIV infection
- Receipt of organ transplant
- Receipt of blood transfusion or blood component before 1992
- History of incarceration
- Receipt of tattoo in unregulated setting

HCV testing based on a recognized exposure and meets coverage criteria for:

- Health care, emergency medical and public safety workers after needle sticks, sharps or mucosal exposures to HCV-positive blood.
- Children born to HCV-positive women.
- Current sexual partners of HCV-infected persons.

A **one-time testing** for HCV genotype prior to initiation of treatment to guide selection of the most appropriate antiviral regimen.

For patients with acute HCV infection, monitoring HCV RNA to determine spontaneous clearance of HCV infection versus persistence of infection. **Testing can be performed every four to eight weeks for six to 12 months**.

Testing for HCV viral load, using a quantitative nucleic acid test n the following situations:

• Prior to initiation of HCV therapy, AND

After four weeks of therapy AND

- At the end of treatment AND
- 12 weeks and 24 weeks after completion of treatment





MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY **Allergy Testing**

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY	
82784	83520	86021	
82785	86001	86343	051
82787	86003	86352	051
83516	86005	88184	

MEDICALLY NECESSARY — See Medical Policy for a complete list of all allergy testing modalities

Direct Skin Testing (for immediate hypersensitivity)

- Percutaneous or epicutaneous (scratch, prick or puncture) The number of tests required may vary widely depending on the patient's age and the degree of hypersensitivity.
- Intradermal testing is considered to be a more sensitive, but less specific, testing method than percutaneous testing for the detection of IgE antibodies. The number of intradermal tests may also vary from patient to patient.
- The evaluation of inhalant allergy may require up to 70 prick/puncture tests followed by up to 40 intradermal tests, which are ordinarily performed when prick/puncture tests are negative. Under special circumstances and in certain geographic areas, a greater number of prick/puncture and/or intradermal tests may be appropriate. However, in many parts of the country and probably in most cases, fewer tests are required.

Patch Testing for evaluation of possible allergic contact dermatitis. A limited series of patch tests may be an ap- propriate initial step. Standard panels of allergens for patch testing are available from various commercial sources, the most commonly used being the T.R.U.E. TEST[®] by Allerderm. Each T.R.U.E. TEST[®] patch test unit includes 35 common allergens and a negative control. In-vitro specific IgE testing is limited to 20 allergen specific antibodies per year. Additional testing beyond this number will require individual review for coverage criteria.

- The patient has persistent allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) after being previously evaluated and treated (including six weeks of avoidance of any allergens that were positive on initial patch testing, and use of topical steroid products if appropriate) or the patient has any of the following:
 - At least eight weeks of dermatitis without resolution with treatment.
 - A dermatitis that may be implanted device-related.
 - Is undergoing pre-testing for medical or dental device placement.
 - Requires extensive patch testing to determine if persistent dermatitis is allergic contact dermatitis.
 - Has seen at least one other physician who has requested specialty patch testing.

AND

• The dermatitis interferes with the patient's normal activities of daily living, such as occupational or work activities (use of hands), sleep patterns (due to itching), bathing or social interactions.

Photo-patch test: This test reflects contact photosensitization. A photosensitivity (sensitivity to sunlight) reaction may be suspected when a rash appears only in areas exposed to sunlight. The reaction may be caused by various drugs, substances applied to the skin (drugs or cosmetics), chemicals, etc. Photo-patch testing involves applying two identical sets of allergens to the back on day one. One of the sets is exposed to UVA light, and the sites are then examined as usual. A positive photo-patch test is recorded when an allergic reaction appears only on the light- exposed site.

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and BlueChoice HealthPlan of South Carolina

Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Thyroid Disease Testing

PROCEDURE CODE(S)			CAM POLICY
80438	84439	84480	
80439	84442	84481	
84432	84443	84482	135
84436	84445	86376	
84437	84479	86800	

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Individuals with symptoms consistent with hyporthyroidism

- TSH to confirm or rule out primary hypothyroidism.
- Free total T4 as a followup to abnormal TSH findings.
- Free T4 as a follow-up in cases of suspected secondary hypothyroidism when TSH is normal.
- TSH to distinguish between primary and secondary hypothyroidism.

Individuals with symptoms consistent with hyperthyroidism

- TSH to confirm or rule out primary hyperthyroidism.
- Testing for total or free T3 is considered medically necessary and meets coverage criteria for individuals being evaluated for hyperthyroidism.
- Free and/or total T4 to distinguish between primary and secondary hyperthyroidism.
- TSH and free T4 should be measured for monitoring individuals being treated for hyperthyroidism every six to 12 weeks.

Asymptomatic individuals 60 years of age and older, every five years.

Asymptomatic individuals at high risk for thyroid disease.

- A personal or family history of thyroid dysfunction (limited to one time).
- Personal or family history of Type 1 diabetes or other autoimmune disorder (limited to one time).
- Prescribed drugs that can interfere with thyroid function (annually or when dosage or medication changes). Drugs interfering with thyroid function include, but are not limited to:
 - Amiodarone, interferon, iodine, lithium, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, sulfonamides.
- Women undergoing evaluation for infertility.

• TSH, free T4 and total T4 for monitoring individuals being treated for hypothyroidism **every 6-12 weeks** upon dosage change and annually in stable individuals.

hyperthyroidism.Close monitoring first three months post-treatment.

• Monitoring individuals closely after treatment for

• Annual monitoring after first year, even if asymptomatic, for risk of relapse or late-onset hypothyroidism.

- Monitoring of pregnant women in pregnancy and postpartum.
 - Monitoring of pregnant women being treated for hypothyroidism, every four weeks.
- T4 testing for management of thyroid disease during pregnancy.
- FT4 measurements in all patients in first trimester in the presence of a suppressed serum TSH.
- Measurement of serum total T3 (TT3) and thyrotropin receptor antibodies (TRAb) for establishing a diagnosis of hyperthyroidism.
- TSH testing if there is a thyroid nodule.
- TSH to evaluate first year hypothyroidism.

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and BlueChoice HealthPlan of South Carolina

Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

PROCEDURE CODE(S)			CAM POLICY
80438	84439	84480	
80439	84442	84481	
84432	84443	84482	135
84436	84445	86376	
84437	84479	86800	



MEDICALLY NECESSARY Cont.

- Serum TSH in early pregnancy if history of:
 - Thyroid dysfunction or prior thyroid surgery
 - Age >30 years
 - Symptoms of thyroid dysfunction or the presence of goiter
 - TPOAb positivity
 - Type 1 diabetes or other autoimmune disorders
 - History of head or neck radiation
- TSH, FT4 and TPOAb tests in postpartum depression.
- Patients with disease or neoplasm of the thyroid or other endocrine glands.

Testing for thyroid antibodies for the evaluation of autoimmune thyroiditis.

Testing for serum thyroglobulin and anti-thyroglobulin antibody levels for individuals with thyroid cancer.

Evaluation of the cause of hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism.

Hyperthyroid Signs And Symptoms

Sudden weight loss when appetite, amount and type of food eaten remains the same or increases.		Tremor — a fine trembling in your hands and fingers.		Fatigue, muscle weakness.
Rapid heartbeat (tachycardia) -	– commonly	Changes in bow	el patterns,	An enlarged thyroid gland
more than 100 beats a minute -	- irregular	especially more	frequent	(goiter), which may appear as a
heartbeat (arrhythmia) or poun	ding of heart.	bowel moveme	nts.	swelling at the base of your neck.
Increased appetite.		Increased sensit	tivity to heat	Difficulty sleeping.
Nervousness, anxiety and irritability.		Changes in men	strual	Skin thinning.
Sweating.		patterns.		Fine, brittle hair.
Hypothyroidism Signs And Symptoms				
Fatigue	Puffy face		Pain, stiffness or	swelling in joints
Increased sensitivity to cold	Hoarseness		Heavier than normal or irregular menstrual periods	
Constipation	Muscle weakness		Muscle aches, tenderness and stiffness	
Dry skin	Elevated blood cholesterol level		Slowed heart rate	
Unexplained weight gain	Thinning hair		Depression	
ΝΟΤ ΜΕDICALLY NECESSARY				

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Testing of Reverse T3, T3 uptake and total T4.

Measurement of total and/or T3 uptake testing in the assessment of hypothyroidism.

Measurement of a total or free T3 level when assessing levothyroxine dose in hypothyroid patients.

- Family history of thyroid dysfunction
- Morbid obesity (BMI $\ge 40 \text{ kg/m}^2$)
- Use of amiodarone or lithium, or recent administration of iodinated radiologic contrast
- Infertility
- Residing in an area of known moderate to severe iodine insufficiency



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Testosterone Testing

PROCEDURE CODE(S)			CAM POLICY
84402	84403	84410	131



TIP! Laboratory tests performed by any provider type are subject to frequency limitations. Also, using the appropriate procedure codes and diagnosis codes are essential when rendering laboratory services.

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

For diagnosing hypogonadism in males.

For women to assist in the work-up of suspected polycystic ovary syndrome.

For symptomatic males being evaluated for androgen deficiency. For pre-pubescent males, the technology used for testing should be sensitive and specific enough to quantify accurately the low concentrations normally found in that population.

Repeat testing for males with low initial serum testosterone results. Sample collection should occur in early morning, and at least one week after the initial test.

Measurement of serum free testosterone and/or bioavailable testosterone if total testosterone is confirmed as borderline or low.

Testing for serum total testosterone for symptomatic males being evaluated for conditions associated with androgen excess. For infants and pre-pubescent males, the technology used for testing should be sensitive and specific enough to quantify accurately the low concentrations normally found in that population.

Testing for serum total testosterone for symptomatic females being evaluated for conditions associated with androgen excess.(e.g., polycystic ovary syndrome). The technology used for testing should be sensitive enough to detect the low concentrations normally found in females.

Measurement of serum free testosterone and/or bioavailable testosterone for in individuals suspected of having a disorder that is accompanied by increased or decreased SHBG levels.

Testing for men with prostate cancer taking enzyme inhibitors

Testing for men receiving testosterone replacement therapy every three to six months for the first year after initiation of therapy, and annually thereafter.

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Testing for serum total testosterone, free testosterone, in asymptomatic individuals or in individuals with non-specific symptoms.

For the identification of androgen deficiency in women.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Salivary testing for testosterone.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Cervical Cancer Screening

PROCEDURE CODE(S)			CAM POLICY
87623	88147	88155	
87624	88148	88164	
87625	88150	88165	
88141	88152	88166	20409
88142	88153	88167	
88143	88154	88174	
		88175	

MEDICALLY NECESSARY – May be covered annually based on group benefits.

For women under 21 years of age who meet one of the following criteria:

History of HIV and other immunocompromised conditions

• Previous diagnosis of cervical dysplasia

• History of an organ transplant

- Previous diagnosis of cervical cancer
- For women 21 29 years of age, using conventional or liquid-based Papanicolaou (Pap) smears at a frequency of every **three years**.

For women 21 – 29 years of age, testing for high-risk strains of HPV when the cytology from a Pap smear is positive for atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS).

For women 30 – 65 years of age, using conventional or liquid-based Pap smear at a frequency of every **three years**, or using the HPV co-test (cytology with concurrent high-risk HPV testing) at a frequency of every **five years**.

For women >65 years of age who are considered high risk (women with a high-grade precancerous lesion or cervical cancer, women with in-utero exposure to diethylstilbestrol or women who are immunocompromised).

Repeat cervical cancer screening by Pap smear or HPV testing in one year if a previous cervical cancer screen had an abnormal cytology and/or was positive for HPV or woman is at high risk for cervical cancer (organ transplant, exposure to the drug DES, immunocompromised women).

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Routine cervical cancer screening does not meet coverage criteria in women >65 years of age who are not considered high risk and have an adequate screening history:

- Three consecutive negative Pap smears.
- Two consecutive negative HPV tests within 10 years before cessation of screening, with the most recent test occurring within five years.

Testing for high-risk strains of HPV reflexively after abnormal cytology results other than ASCUS in any age group.

Cervical cancer screening (at any age) for women who have undergone surgical removal of uterus and cervix and have no history of cervical cancer or pre-cancer.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Primary HPV testing (testing for HPV without cytology), as the clinical utility has not been established.

Inclusion of low-risk strains of HPV in co-testing, as the clinical utility has not been established.

Other technologies for cervical cancer screening, because of insufficient evidence of clinical utility.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Flow Cytometry

PROCEDURE	CAM POLICY	
88182	86355	
88184	86356	
88185	86357	
88187	86359	120
88188	86360	
88189	86361	
88199	86367	



MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Flow cytometry immunophenotyping of cell surface markers for any of the following conditions:

- Cytopenias, lymphomas, leukemia and lymphoproliferative disorders or myelodysplastic syndrome.
- B-cell monitoring for immunosuppressive disorders.
- T-cell monitoring for HIV infection and AIDS.
- Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria.
- Postoperative monitoring of members who have undergone organ transplantation.
- Primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs) and PIDs involving T.

The following reimbursement limitations apply for flow cytometry:

- For flow cytometric immunophenotyping for the assessment of potential hematolymphoid neoplasia, use codes 88184-88189.
- Code 88184 should be used for the first marker and is reimbursable as a single unit.
- Code 88185 should be used for each additional marker, and is reimbursable up to 24 units. Note that medical necessity for the number of markers tested must be included in the medical record.
- Additional units of 88185 (i.e., greater than 24 units) require prior authorization, based on documented medical necessity.

- Plasma cell disorders.
- Hypercellular hematolymphoid disorders.
- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).
- Chronic myeloproliferative disorders (CMPDs).
- Minimal residual disease (MRD).
- Molar pregnancy.
- Primary platelet disorders, non-neoplastic.
- Red cell and white cell disorders, non-neoplastic.
- Mast cell neoplasms.
- In patients with a neoplasm with an established immunophenotype, subsequent tests for that neoplasm should be limited to diagnostically relevant markers.
- Codes 88187, 88188 and 88189 should not be used together in any combination. They are mutually exclusive and reimbursable as a single unit only.
- Codes 88187-88189 should not be used in conjunction with codes 86355, 86356, 86357, 86359, 86360, 86361 or 86367.
- Use codes 86355, 86356, 86357, 86359, 86360, 86361 or 86367 for cell enumeration. These codes are reimbursable as single units only.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Gamma Interferon Blood Test

Diagnosis of Latent Tuberculosis

PROCEDURE CODE(S)	CAM POLICY
86480	20428

Current as of October 2017

MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Genetic Testing Inherited Thrombophilia

PROCEDURE CODE(S)			CAM POLICY
81240	81291	85307	20492
81421	81400		20482

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

To diagnose latent tuberculosis infection in:

- Individuals five years or older who are likely to be infected with Mtb.
- Individuals who are unlikely to be infected with Mtb, when screening is obliged by law.

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

For patients with active tuberculosis.

To diagnose latent tuberculosis infection in healthy children less than five years of age for whom it has been decided that diag- nostic testing is warranted. Tuberculosis Skin Test is recommended.

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Testing for Factor V Leiden and Prothrombin gene G20210A mutations in patients without recurrent VTE risk factors.

Testing for protein C deficiency, protein S deficiency and antithrombin III deficiency in patients without recurrent VTE risk factors. Testing should be performed at least six weeks after acute thrombotic event and while the patient is not taking anticoagulants.

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

MTHFR genetic testing is for hypercoagulable evaluation.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Genetic testing for inherited thrombophilia for the following situations:

- Evaluation of recurrent fetal loss, placental abruption, pre-eclampsia or fetal growth restriction.
- Evaluation of arterial thrombosis not attributable to paradoxical emboli.
- Routine screening in the general population.

- Routine screening of asymptomatic women considering oral contraceptive use or hormone replacement therapy.
- Routine screening of asymptomatic pregnant women.
- Prenatal or preimplantation testing.

Testing for other factors, including the factor V HR2 variant or prothrombin G1199A variant, or factor VII R353Q variant or factor 13B V34L variant or PAI-1, as well as multi-gene panel testing.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Helicobacter Pylori Testing

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY	
78267	83014		
78268	86677	20406	
83009	87338	20406	
83013	87339		

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Urea breath testing or stool antigen testing for Helicobacter Pylori infection for adult patients (>18). In the evaluation of suspected infection with the following symptoms:

- Dyspeptic symptoms or
- Active peptic ulcer disease (PUD) or
- Past history of PUD without H. pylori history or
- Low-grade gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma, or
- A history of endoscopic resection of early gastric cancer (EGC), or

- Patients with uninvestigated dyspepsia who are under the age of 60 years and without alarm features, or
- Patients initiating chronic treatment with a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).
- Patients with unexplained iron deficiency anemia.
- In the evaluation of a patient with chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) and suspected H. Pylori infection.

Re-evaluation to measure success of eradication of H. Pylori infection, at least 4 weeks post treatment.

- Any patients with an H. Pylori-associated ulcer.
- As part of the follow-up of patients with persistent symptoms of dyspepsia following appropriate antibiotic treat for H. Pylori.
- In patients with Gastric MALT Lymphoma.
- In individuals who have undergone resection of early gastric cancer.

Urea Breath or stool antigent testing for H. Pylori infection for pediatric patients (<18) in the following situations:

- In the evaluation of a patient with chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) and suspected H. Pylori infection.
- Re-evaluation to measure success of eradication of H. Pylori infection, at least 4 weeks post-treatment.

Biopsy-based endoscopic histology test and Rapid Urease Test or culture in pediatric patients (<18) with gastric or duodenal ulcers or with refractory IDA in which other causes have been ruled out; and in adult patients (>18) undergoing endoscopic examination or in those with alarm symptoms for the diagnosis of H. Pylori infection.

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Urea Breath or stool antigen testing for H. Pylori infection for asymptomatic pediatric (<18) and asymptomatic adult (>18) patients in all other situations; and adult patients with typical symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) who do not have a history of PUD.

Serologic testing for H. Pylori infection in adult and pediatric patients as it does not distinguish between currently active infection with past exposure and an infection that has been cured.

Biopsy-based endoscopic histology test and Rapid Urease Test or culture in pediatric patients (<18) for the diagnosis of H. Pylori infection when investigating the following:

• Children with functional abdominal pain

Causes of short stature

• As part of initial investigation in children with iron deficiency anemia

Testing with the Urea Breath Test and/or stool antigen and/or biopsy-based test in patients with recent use of antibiotics, PPIs or bismuth.

Concurrent testing with the Urea Breath Test and/or stool antigen and/or biopsy-based testing as simultaneous use of both methods does not improve clinical understanding.

PCR testing for H. Pylori, as it is not practical for routine diagnosis.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Fecal Analysis

Diagnosis of Intestinal Dysbiosis

PROCEDURE CODE(S)			CAM POLICY
82239	83986	87045	
82542	83993	87046	
82656	84311	87075	
82710	87102	87177	20426
82715	87328	87209	20426
82725	87329	82272	
83520	87336	82273	
83630	89160	82274	

Current as of October 2017

MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY MUC16 (CA-125)

Expression in Ovarian Cancer

PROCEDURE CODE(S)	CAM POLICY
86304	20427

INVESTIGATIONAL

Fecal analysis as a diagnostic test for the evaluation of intestinal dysbiosis, irritable bowel syndrome, malabsorption or intestinal overgrowth of bacteria.

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Patients with symptoms suggestive of ovarian cancer to establish a baseline.

Patients with known ovarian cancer as an aid in the monitoring of disease, response to treatment, detection of recurrent disease, or assessing value of performing second-look surgery.

Patients with other suspected pelvic mass or gynecologic malignancies, such as endometrial cancer.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Asymptomatic patients as a screening technique for ovarian cancer.

Current as of October 2017



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Lyme Disease Testing

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY
86617	87475	159
86618	87576	122



MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Serologic testing (two-tier testing strategy) for all patients with a history of travel to a Lyme region (with or without a history of a tick bite) with compatible symptoms of Lyme disease.

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Serologic testing:

- In patients with an erythema migrans (EM) rash. Patients with skin rashes consistent with EM who live in or have recently traveled to an endemic area should be treated for Lyme disease.
- For screening of asymptomatic patients living in endemic areas.
- For patients with non-specific symptoms only (e.g., fatigue, myalgias/arthralgias). The use of serologic testing in populations with a low pre-test probability of Lyme disease results in a greater likelihood of false positive test results than true positive test results.

PCR-based direct detection of Borrelia burgdorferi:

- In patients with a short duration of neurological symptoms (<14 days) during the window between exposure and production of detectable antibodies, via CSF sample.
- In patients with Lyme carditis, as evidenced by positive serologic findings (positive or indeterminate enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA] or positive immunoblot by CDC criteria), and associated with a high degree of artrioventricular block, or a PR interval of greater than 0.3 seconds, via blood sample.
- In patients with well-documented Lyme arthritis who have such severe arthritis that it requires rapid IV antibiotic response, via synovial tissue/fluid sample.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Repeat PCR-based direct detection of Borrelia burgdorferi:

- As a justification for continuation of IV antibiotics beyond one month in patients with persistent symptoms.
- As a technique to follow a therapeutic response.
- Via urine sample.

Other testing for Borrelia burgdorferi:

- Genotyping and phenotyping.
- Determination of levels of the B lymphocyte chemoattractant CXCL₁₃.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Prenatal Screening

PROCEDURE CODE(S)			CAM POLICY
80055	81510	87081	
80081	81511	87086	
81001	81512	87088	
81002	82677	87270	
81003	82731	87320	
81007	82947	87490	
81200	82951	87491	
81209	83020	87590	110
81220	83021	87591	119
81221	83036	87592	
81241	83080	87653	
81242	84999	87662	
81243	85004	87800	-
81244	85007	87810	
81251	85014	87850	
81252	85018	G0306	

MEDICALLY NECESSARY

The following routine prenatal screening meets coverage criteria for all pregnant women:

- Screening for HIV infection
- Screening for Chlamydia trachomatis infection
- Screening for N. gonorrhea infection
- Screening for hepatitis B
- Screening for syphilis
- Screening for hepatitis C for pregnant women deemed to be at high risk, defined as meeting one of the following criteria for infection: past or current injection or intranasal drug use, long-term hemodialysis, being born to an HCV-infected mother, incarceration, individuals getting unregulated tattoos
- Screening for bacteriuria
- Screening for fetal aneuploidy and/or neural tube defects with biochemical markers

- Screening for Type 2 diabetes at the first prenatal visit
- Screening for gestational diabetes during gestational weeks 24 28
- Determination of blood type, RhD status and antibody status
- Screening for anemia meets coverage criteria with a CBC or hemoglobin and hematocrit
- Screening for Group B strep once during gestational weeks 35 to 37
- Screening for fetal aneuploidy with non-invasive evaluation of circulating cell-free fetal DNA for pregnant women at high risk.

For pregnant women and those women seeking pre-conception care, any of the following testing of carrier status:

- Carrier testing for cystic fibrosis.
- Carrier testing for Canavan disease, Tay-Sachs disease, familial dysautonomia, Gaucher disease, Niemann-Pick type A, Bloom syndrome and mucolipidosis IV in Ashkenazi Jewish women.
- Carrier screening for Tay-Sachs disease in women of French-Canadian or Cajun heritage.
- Carrier screening for Fragile X syndrome when there is a family history of Fragile X syndrome (or a family history of undefined mental retardation/ developmental delay).
- Carrier screening for SMA when there is a family history of SMA (or an undefined SMA-like disorder).
- Carrier screening for hemoglobinopathies in women of African, Southeast Asian and Mediterranean descent.
- Carrier testing for other genetic disorders when there is a family history of a genetic disorder and a properly validated test is available. When there is a known familial mutation, testing should be limited to that mutation, when possible. See General Genetic Testing policy for more details on appropriate criteria for genetic testing.

- Genetic testing for hereditary hearing loss mutations (GJB2, GJB6 and other hereditary hearing loss- related mutations) in individuals with hearing loss to confirm the diagnosis of hereditary hearing loss meets coverage criteria. Preconception genetic testing (carrier testing) for hereditary hearing loss mutations (GJB2, GJB6 and other hereditary hearing loss-related mutations) in parents meets coverage criteria when at least one of the following conditions has been met:
 - Offspring with hereditary hearing loss
 - One or both parents with suspected hereditary hearing loss
 - First- or second-degree relative affected with hereditary hearing loss
 - First-degree relative with offspring who is affected with hereditary hearing loss
 - Genetic testing for hereditary hearing loss mutations is investigational for all other situations, including, but not limited to, testing in patients without hearing loss.

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and BlueChoice HealthPlan of South Carolina

Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

PROCE	DURE CODE(S)		CAM POLI
81253	85025	G0307	
81254	85027	G0432	
81255	85041	G0433	
81257	86480	G0435	
81260	86481	G0472	
81290	86592	S3652	
81330	86593	S3844	
81400	86631	S3845	
81401	86632	S3846	
81403	86701	S3849	119
81404	86702	S3850	119
81405	86703		
81406	86780		
81420	86787		
81430	86794		
81431	86803		
81479	86804		
81507	86850		
81508	86900		
81509	86901		

MEDICALLY NECESSARY Cont.

Third trimester re-screening of Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhea and/or HIV infections for pregnant women who meet any one of the following high-risk criteria:

- Sexually active individuals under 25 years of age.
- New or multiple sexual partners.
- Current sex workers.

ICY

• Past or current injection drug use.

• Past history of sexually transmitted diseases (bacterial vaginosis, chancroid, chlamydia, gonorrhea, genital sherpes, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, human papillomavirus, lymphogranuloma venereum, syphilis, trichomoniasis).

• Carrier screening for a recessively inherited disorder

with a carrier frequency of less than one in 50 in the specific population being tested does not meet

Carrier screening of the biological father meets coverage criteria when the mother is known or found to be a carrier of a recessively inherited disorder. Carrier testing limitations:

coverage criteria.

- Repeat carrier screening for the same disorder does not meet coverage criteria.
- Carrier screening should be limited to once per lifetime per disorder for which the individual is at risk.
- Panel testing is considered experimental and investigational.

Fetal Fibronectin (FFN) assays meet coverage criteria for pregnant women who meet all of the following criteria:

Singleton or twin gestations
 Intact membranes
 Cervical dilation <3 cm
 Patient experiencing symptoms suggestive of preterm labor between 24 and less than 35 weeks of gestation

Testing pregnant women for thyroid dysfunction if they have any of the following:

Symptoms of thyroid disease
Personal history of other medical conditions associated with thyroid disease (e.g., diabetes mellitus, goiter, iodine deficiency).

Fetal RHD genotyping using maternal plasma.

Zika virus testing for pregnant women who have potentially been exposed to Zika virus (i.e., via travel, residence or sexual contact), regardless of whether they present with Zika signs or symptoms.

INVESTIGATIONAL

All other applications of the FFN assay, including, but not limited to, the following:

- As part of routine pregnancy monitoring in asymptomatic women with singleton gestation and no risk factors for preterm birth.
- As part of clinical monitoring of asymptomatic women at high risk for preterm birth, including, but not limited to, those with multiple gestations, history of preterm birth, uterine malformation, cervical incompetence or history of two or more spontaneous second trimester abortions.
- As part of clinical monitoring in women with triplet or higher-order gestations, intact membranes, cervical dilation <3 cm and who are experiencing symptoms suggestive of preterm labor.
- As a test to identify women at term being considered for induction who are likely to deliver within 24 – 48 hours and, therefore, do not require induction.

Serial monitoring of salivary estriol levels as a technique of risk assessment for preterm labor or delivery.

Pre-conceptional or prenatal genetic testing for inherited medical disorders that do not meet policy criteria.



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Toxicology

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY	
80305	G0477	G0480	
80306	G0478	G0481	140
80307	G0479	G0482	140
		G0483	



MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Presumptive Urine Drug Tests (UDT)

- At initial entrance into a non-cancer chronic pain management program, when starting treatment with a controlled substance; or
- To assess a patient when clinical evaluation suggests the patient's use of non-prescribed medications or illegal substances; or
- Randomly to verify compliance with treatment, identify undisclosed drug use or abuse or evaluate aberrant behavior as part of a routine random-monitoring program for individuals who are receiving treatment for non-cancer chronic pain with prescription opioid or other potentially abused medications.
- In pregnant individuals at high risk for substance abuse in whom suspicion of drug use exists as a result of the answers to substance abuse screening questions or indicated by information from the PDMP, as documented in the medical record.
- In newborns when there is a history of maternal substance abuse or agitated/altered mental status in the mother.

Definitive/Non-Immunoassay UDT

- Presumptive UDT shows inconsistent or unexpected results; and
- Further laboratory-based specific drug identification testing is specifically requested by the patient's treating physician, documented in the medical record and is based on inconsistencies or unexpected results in the initial presumptive UDT results.
- The patient's treating physician must document in the patient's medical record the specific drugs or drug

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Presumptive UDT

- Testing for the same drug with both a blood and urine test simultaneously.
- Random testing at every visit.

INVESTIGATIONAL

Quantitative UDT

• Quantitative reporting as a component of a definitive UDT does not provide enough information to determine the patient's drug exposure time, dose or frequency of use, and there is currently no scientifically validated relationship between the concentrations reported in the patient's urine and the doses taken of prescribed drugs.

- In candidates for organ transplant who have a history of substance abuse, to demonstrate abstinence prior to transplant.
- The diagnosis, management and compliance monitoring of a member under treatment for substance abuse or dependence. The random testing frequency after baseline at initial evaluation must meet medical necessity and be documented in the patient's medical record:
 - For patients with zero to 90 consecutive days of abstinence, qualitative drug testing at a

frequency of one to two per week meets coverage criteria.

 For patients with >90 consecutive days of abstinence, qualitative drug testing at a frequency of one to three in one month meets coverage criteria.

classes that are likely to be present in a definitive UDT based on the patient's medical history and current clinical presentation.

 A qualitative test does not exist or does not adequately detect the specific drug or metabolite to be tested (for example, specific drugs within the amphetamine, barbiturate, benzodiazepine, tricyclic antidepressants and opiate/opioid drug classes, as well as synthetic/analog or "designer" drugs).



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Saturation Biopsy Diagnosis and Staging of Prostate Cancer

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY	
55700	55706	701121	
76942	G0416	/01121	

Current as of April 2018

MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Diagnosis and Management of Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance

INVESTIGATIONAL

INVESTIGATIONAL

Laboratory tests designed to affirm the diagnosis of idiopathic environmental illness.

Saturation biopsy in the diagnosis, staging and management of prostate cancer.

Treatment of idiopathic environmental illness with IVIg, neutralizing therapy of chemical and food extracts, avoidance therapy, elimination diets and oral nystatin (to treat Candida).

Challenge ingestion food testing in the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, depression or respiratory disorders for these issues.

CAM POLICY

20101



MEDICAL POLICY SUMMARY Genetic Testing Cystic Fibrosis

PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY	
81220	81223	81412	
81221	81224	81479	044
81222			



MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Carrier screening for cystic fibrosis, using a panel containing mutations proven as causative of CF (as defined by the CFTR2 project) and including the ACMG-recommended panel of the most common mutations in all of the following situations:

• For all pregnant women.

cvstic fibrosis.

- For all women seeking pre-conception counseling.
- For the male reproductive partners of women who have been identified as cystic fibrosis carriers.
- For the reproductive partners of individuals diagnosed with cystic fibrosis.
- For individuals who have a family history of cystic fibrosis or have a first-degree relative who is a known carrier of cystic fibrosis. Testing needs to include any known familial mutations if not already included in the panel.

Testing of a fetus for mutations in the CFTR gene (including all known parental mutations) when:

- Both biological parents are cystic fibrosis carriers.One or both biological parents are affected with
- One biological parent is a cystic fibrosis carrier and the other parent is not available for testing.
- Echogenic bowel is detected by fetal ultrasound.

Testing for mutations in the CFTR gene, using a panel containing mutations proven as causative of CF (as defined by the CFTR2 project) and including the ACMG-recommended panel of the most common mutations in order to make the diagnosis in a newborn or confirm the diagnosis after an abnormal newborn screening result using immunoreactive trypsinogen.

Testing for mutations in the CFTR gene as an adjunct to sweat testing in an individual presenting with symptoms of cystic fibrosis, as follows:

- When there are known familial mutations, testing needs to include the familial mutations.
- When there are no known familial mutations, or if only one familial mutation is known, testing needs to be done with a panel containing mutations proven as causative of CF (as defined by the CFTR2 project), as well as include the ACMG-recommended panel of the most common mutations. If the known familial mutation is not included in that panel, then testing for the known mutation needs to be performed additionally.
- Sequencing of the CFTR gene meets coverage criteria if no mutations or only one mutation are found using the above panel, and the clinical suspicion of cystic fibrosis remains.
- If sequencing of the CFTR gene does not reveal two disease-causing mutations, and the clinical suspicion of cystic fibrosis remains, testing for deletions and duplications in the CFTR gene meets coverage criteria.



PROCEDURE CODE(S)		CAM POLICY	
81220	81223	81412	
81221	81224	81479	044
81222			



MEDICALLY NECESSARY Cont.

Testing for mutations in the CFTR gene, using a panel containing mutations proven as causative of CF (as defined by the CFTR2 project) and including the ACMG-recommended panel of the most common mutations, along with testing for the IVS8 5T/7T/9T variant, in males with CBAVD. If mutations are not detected with the standard panel, and a diagnosis of cystic fibrosis-related CBAVD remains a consideration, sequencing of the CFTR gene meets coverage criteria.

Testing for the IVS8 5T/7T/9T variant for cystic fibrosis carrier screening only as a reflex test when the R117H mutation is detected on carrier screening.

Genetic counseling for:

- Individuals found to be cystic fibrosis carriers.
- Individuals with a diagnosis of cystic fibrosis.
- Individuals with a family history of cystic fibrosis.

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY

Sequencing of the CFTR gene for cystic fibrosis carrier screening.

- Individuals who are the reproductive partner of a cystic fibrosis carrier.
- Individuals who are the reproductive partner of a person diagnosed with cystic fibrosis or CBAVD.