



Reimbursement Policy:

Drug and Alcohol Testing (Commercial/Medicaid)

POLICY NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE:	APPROVED BY
RPC20210004	7/01/2020	RPC (Reimbursement Policy Committee)

Reimbursement Guideline Disclaimer: We have policies in place that reflect billing or claims payment processes unique to our health plans. Current billing and claims payment policies apply to all our products, unless otherwise noted. We will inform you of new policies or changes in policies through postings to the applicable Reimbursement Policies webpages on emblemhealth.com. Further, we may announce additions and changes in our provider manual and/or provider newsletters which are available online and emailed to those with a current and accurate email address on file. The information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of this publication.

The information provided in our policies is intended to serve only as a general reference resource for services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to, legislative mandates, physician or other provider contracts, the member's benefit coverage documents and/or other reimbursement, and medical or drug policies. Finally, this policy may not be implemented the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems in use due to programming or other constraints; however, we strive to minimize these variations.

We follow coding edits that are based on industry sources, including, but not limited to, CPT® guidelines from the American Medical Association, specialty organizations, and CMS including NCCI and MUE. In coding scenarios where there appears to be conflicts between sources, we will apply the edits we determine are appropriate. We use industry-standard claims editing software products when making decisions about appropriate claim editing practices. Upon request, we will provide an explanation of how we handle specific coding issues. If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, we may deny the claim and/or recoup claim payment.

Overview:

This policy defines the daily and annual limits for presumptive drug testing and definitive drug testing; and also addresses Specimen Validity Testing.

This policy applies to all products, all network and non-network physicians and other qualified health care professionals, including, but not limited to, non-network authorized and percent of charge contract physicians and other qualified health care professionals. EmblemHealth does not reimburse for drug testing when billed by an entity that did not perform the service. This policy applies to testing performed for assessing both medical and behavioral conditions and claims for outpatient services reported using the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (CMS-1500), its electronic equivalent or its successor form.

This policy is only applicable to routine outpatient service as urine drug tests (UDTs) are one of many services that are included in the bundled-daily rate for facility-based care (IP, Rehab, Partial Hospital Programs, and Intensive Outpatient Programs).

Policy Statement:

Presumptive drug testing (see applicable procedure codes) not to exceed one (1) unit per date of service up to 18 units per year* (12 months), submitted by the same or different provider, is covered when there is a suspicion of drug misuse by the individual being tested, and ALL of the following criteria are met:

- The diagnosis, history, and physical examination and/or behavior of the individual being tested support the need for the specific drug testing being requested
- The results of testing will impact treatment planning
- Testing is performed in a physician-supervised treatment setting

Definitive drug testing (see applicable codes) not to exceed one (1) unit per date of service up to 18 units per year* (12 months), submitted by the same or different provider, is covered when there is a suspicion of drug misuse by the individual being tested, and EITHER of the following criteria are met:

- Presumptive test results are inconsistent with the individual's condition, history and examination

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- Only the drug classes which are inconsistent with presumptive test may be tested on the definitive
- Presumptive drug test is not available for the drug for which there is a suspicion of abuse or misuse and ALL of the following criteria are met:
 1. The diagnosis, history and physical examination and/or behavior of the individual being tested support the need for the specific drug testing being requested
 2. Results of testing will impact treatment planning
 3. Testing is performed in a physician-supervised treatment setting

**Note: The annual limitations apply to Commercial Plans only*

EmblemHealth Medicaid Plans:

EmblemHealth follows NY State Medicaid guidelines for drug testing

- *Presumptive and Definitive drug testing (see applicable codes) not to exceed (1) unit per date of service up to 6 (six) units per year (12 months)*

A high-complexity laboratory drug test is considered covered when it is performed in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment ([CLIA]-CMS certification)-approved laboratory and the above criteria are met. Proof of current CLIA accreditation is required for payment and evidence may be requested. Laboratory reimbursements may be subject to the in-office laboratory policy.

A high-complexity laboratory drug test is considered covered when it is performed in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment ([CLIA]-CMS certification)-approved laboratory and the above criteria are met. Proof of current CLIA accreditation is required for payment and evidence may be requested. Laboratory reimbursements may be subject to the in-office laboratory policy.

Specimen Validity Testing (see applicable codes) to assure that a specimen has not been compromised or that a test has not been adulterated may be required. Specimen Validity Testing is included in the presumptive and definitive drug testing CPT and HCPCS code descriptions and is considered a quality control which is an integral part of the collection process and is not separately reimbursable.

Definitions:

Term	Definition
Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA-Accredited)	A national program that regulates laboratories which perform testing on patient specimens in order to ensure accurate and reliable test results.
Definitive Drug Test	A drug test designed to determine how much (the quantity) of a drug or metabolite is present in a specimen. Laboratory method to identify the presence or absence of a specific drug or metabolite; detecting substances only when they are present above a predetermined threshold. May be quantitative, qualitative or a combination of both.
High-Complexity Test	A test used to confirm results of a presumptive test using very specific chromatography or spectrometry techniques. This type of test should be performed in a CLIA-accredited laboratory which follows consistent quality control standards for testing and interpretation. The complexity of a test is designated by the US Food and Drug Administration.

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Term	Definition
Point-of-Care Test	A drug test conducted at the collection site, such as a health care provider's office that uses dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges or instrumented test systems, such as discrete multichannel chemistry analyzers utilizing immune- or enzyme assay. These tests are simple and have a low-risk of incorrect results.
Presumptive Drug Test	Positive or negative results from a qualitative drug analysis which classifies substances as either present or absent in a specimen based on a predetermined cutoff.
Specimen Validity Test	Urine specimen testing to ensure that urine is consistent with normal human urine and has not been adulterated or substituted; may include, but is not limited to, pH, specific gravity, oxidants and creatinine.
Spectrometry	A type of high-complexity test used to measure the quantity of a substance in a specimen. This type of testing should be performed in a CLIA-accredited laboratory

Place of Service (POS) Settings:

Place of Service (POS):	Description
POS 11	Office Setting
POS 21	Inpatient
POS 22	On Campus – Outpatient Hospital
POS 23	Emergency Room
POS 33	Custodial care facility
POS 49	Independent Clinic
POS 50	FQHC
POS 51	Partial Psych Hospital
POS 53	Community Mental Health
POS 55	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment
POS 56	Psych Rehab Treatment
POS 57	Non-residential substance abuse center
POS 81	Independent Laboratory

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Applicable Procedure Codes:

1. Presumptive Drug/Alcohol Testing

Procedure Code	Description
80305	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures (eg, immunoassay); capable of being read by direct optical observation only (eg, dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges) includes sample validation when performed, per date of service
80306	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures (eg, immunoassay); read by instrument assisted direct optical observation (eg, dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service
80307	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures, by instrument chemistry analyzers (eg, utilizing immunoassay [eg, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA, IA, KIMS, RIA], chromatography (eg, GC, HPLC), and mass spectrometry either with or without chromatography, (eg, DART, DESI, GC-MS, GC-MS/MS, LC-MS, LC-MS/MS, LDTD, MALDI, TOF) includes sample validation when performed, per date of service

2. Definitive Drug/Alcohol Testing

Procedure Code	Description
G0480	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 1-7 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
G0481*	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 8-14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed (Not Covered, may be appealed with documentation) (*Code is never covered by Medicaid Plans)

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Procedure Code	Description
G0482	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 15-21 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed (Not Covered)
G0483	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 22 or more drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed. (Not Covered)
G0659	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem), excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase), performed without method or drug-specific calibration, without matrix-matched quality control material, or without use of stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standard(s) for each drug, drug metabolite or drug class per specimen; qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day, any number of drug classes

3. Specimen Validity Testing

Procedure Code	Description
81000	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; non-automated, with microscopy
81001	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; automated, with microscopy
81002	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; non-automated, without microscopy
81003	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; automated, without microscopy

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Procedure Code	Description
81005	Urinalysis; qualitative or semi-quantitative, except immunoassays
82570	Creatinine; other source
83986	pH; body fluid, not otherwise specified

Applicable Single Drug Class Testing (EmblemHealth Medicaid Plans only):

Procedure Code	Description
80320	Alcohol biomarkers; 1 or 2
80323	Alkaloids, not otherwise specified
80324	Amphetamines; 1 or 2
80325	Amphetamines; 3 or 4
80326	Amphetamines; 5 or more
80335	Antidepressants, tricyclic and other cyclicals; 1 or 2
80336	Antidepressants, tricyclic and other cyclicals; 3-5
80337	Antidepressants, tricyclic and other cyclicals; 6 or more
80345	Barbiturates
80346	Benzodiazepines; 1-12
80347	Benzodiazepines; 13 or more
80348	Buprenorphine
80349	Cannabinoids, natural
80350	Cannabinoids, synthetic; 1-3
80351	Cannabinoids, synthetic; 4-6
80352	Cannabinoids, synthetic; 7 or more
80353	Cocaine
80356	Heroin metabolite
80358	Methadone
80359	Methylenedioxymphetamines
80361	Opiates, 1 or more
80362	Opioids and opiate analogs; 1 or 2

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Procedure Code	Description
80363	Opioids and opiate analogs; 3 or 4
80364	Opioids and opiate analogs; 5 or more
80365	Oxycodone
80367	Propoxyphene

Not Covered:

Note: 1) This list of codes may not be all-inclusive. 2) Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement

- Drug testing by hair analysis (P2031) is considered experimental, investigational or unproven.
- Drug testing services that are determined to be court ordered and/or funded by a county, state or federal agency or other third parties will continue to be denied as non-covered services.
- Proprietary Laboratory Analysis (CPT codes 0007U or 0011U) are not considered medically necessary and are not considered under the policy guidelines pertaining to definitive drug testing.
- 80320-80374 Drug test(s), individual types **(Not reimbursed for Commercial Plans)**
- 80375-80377 Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified **(Not reimbursed)**
 - Definitive Quantitative Test or other Confirmation testing when there hasn't been a presumptive qualitative or proof that positive initial screening or initial screening is inconsistent with patient's history.
 - Confirmation testing when there hasn't been an initial screen or confirmation testing conducted for drug classes other than the one(s) in question.
 - For this reason, G0482-G0483 are considered not covered. G0481 must be appealed with supporting documentation. (Not reimbursed for Medicaid Plans)

EmblemHealth may request medical records for determination of medical necessity. When medical records are requested, letters of support and/or explanation are often useful but are not sufficient documentation unless all specific information needed to make a medical necessity determination is included.

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References:

1. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). (2010). Drug testing as a component of addiction treatment and monitoring programs and in other clinical settings. Accessed on August 16, 2018. Available at URL address: <http://www.asam.org/advocacy/find-a-policy-statement/view-policy-statement/publicpolicy-statements/2011/12/15/drug-testing-as-a-component-of-addiction-treatment-and-monitoringprograms-and-in-other-clinical-settings>
2. American Society of Addiction Medicine. Drug testing: a white paper of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). 2013 Oct 26. Accessed on August 16, 2018. Available at: <http://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/public-policy-statements/-pdf-.pdf?sfvrsn=0>.
3. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). Appropriate Use of Drug Testing in Clinical Addiction Medicine. Journal of Addition Medicine: May/June 2017-Volume11-Issue 3. Accessed on August 16, 2018. Available at URL address: https://journals.lww.com/journaladdictionmedicine/Fulltext/2017/06000/Appropriate_Use_of_Drug_Testing_in_Clinical.1.aspx
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). 2017 Oct 20. Accessed on August 16, 2018. Available at URL address: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/clia/Resources/TestComplexities.aspx>
5. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Oct 22, 2013. Accessed on August 16, 2018. Available at URL address: http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-andGuidance/Legislation/CLIA/Downloads/LDT-and-CLIA_FAQs.pdf
6. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Drug use, illicit: screening. Release date Jan 2008. Accessed on August 16, 2018. Available at URL address: [http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Topic/recommendation-summary/drug-use-illicitscreening?ds=1&s=drug screening](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Topic/recommendation-summary/drug-use-illicitscreening?ds=1&s=drug%20screening)
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Revision History

Company	DATE	REVISION
EmblemHealth	11/26/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferred policy content to individual company-branded template. No changes to policy title or policy number.
EmblemHealth	3/12/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy reviewed, no changes to coding or coverage criteria
EmblemHealth	9/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated to include criteria for EH Medicaid Plans
EmblemHealth	8/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reformatted and reorganized policy, transferred content to new template with new Reimbursement Policy Number