

Payment Policy | Sexually Transmitted Infections Testing



EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/4/2025

POLICY LAST REVIEWED: 03/04/2026

OVERVIEW

This policy outlines the reimbursement guidelines for the use of nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) assays used to detect Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) as identified by CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) codes listed in this policy, for both professional and facility claim submissions. In this policy, professional charges refer to those submitted on a 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (CMS-1500) or its electronic equivalent, while facility charges pertain to those submitted on a UB-04 Claim Form or its electronic equivalent.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

BCBSRI will reimburse the more comprehensive, multiple organism code for infectious agent detection by nucleic acid; amplified probe technique, CPT code 87801 when two or more single test CPT codes are billed separately by the same provider on the same date of service. Reimbursement will be made based on a single unit of CPT code 87801 regardless of the units billed for a single code. No modifiers will override the bundle edit.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate section of the Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for services not medically necessary.

BACKGROUND

Effective May 15, 2026, the reimbursement guidelines for services related to Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in both men and women are as follows.

If two or more of the single STI CPT test codes listed below are billed separately for the same member, by the same provider, and on the same date of service, BCBSRI's reimbursement will be calculated based on the rate for procedure code 87801. This code, 87801, is more comprehensive as it covers the detection of multiple infectious organisms. Irrespective of the quantity of units billed for a single code, the payment will be determined based on a single unit of 87801.

CODING

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Code Description

Applicable single STI CPT codes:

- 87481 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA/RNA); typically, fungal organisms
- 87491 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Chlamydia trachomatis, amplified probe technique
- 87494 Nucleic acid detection of sexually transmitted infectious agent, expanded panel
- 87511 Nucleic acid detection for Herpes simplex virus (HSV) type 1
- 87516 Nucleic acid detection for Herpes simplex virus (HSV) type 2
- 87521 Nucleic acid detection for Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- 87526 Nucleic acid detection for Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)
- 87529 Nucleic acid detection for human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6)
- 87532 Nucleic acid detection for Hepatitis B virus (HBV)
- 87535 Nucleic acid detection for Hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- 87538 Nucleic acid detection for Hepatitis G virus/ GB virus C
- 87563 Nucleic acid detection for Toxoplasma gondii
- 87591 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Neisseria gonorrhoeae, amplified probe technique
- 87593 Nucleic acid detection for Trichomonas vaginalis
- 87661 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Trichomonas vaginalis, amplified probe technique

Applicable comprehensive code:

- 87801 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), multiple organisms; amplified probe(s) technique

Note: The provider is required to bill for the applicable single STI CPT codes, as rendered. The comprehensive CPT code will be reimbursed as indicated above.

RELATED POLICIES

Preventive Services for Commercial

Preventive Services for Medicare Advantage

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, March 2026

Provider Update, August 2025

Provider Update, June 2025

REFERENCES

1. CMS Claims Processing Manual, Section 170.1
<https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/clm104c18.pdf>
2. CMS Billing & Coding Panels, Group 8 Codes [Article - Billing and Coding: MolDX: Molecular Syndromic Panels for Infectious Disease Pathogen Identification Testing \(A58761\)](#)
3. Amerigroup Community Care

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