

Clinical Policy: Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

Reference Number: CA.CP.MP.542

Last Review Date: 07/23

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Urine drug testing is a key diagnostic and therapeutic tool that is useful for medical, surgical or behavioral patient care and monitoring of adherence to a controlled substance treatment regimen (e.g., for chronic non-cancer pain) and to identify drug misuse or addiction prior to starting or during treatment with controlled substances.

This policy is applicable to specific levels of care including Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP), Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), Recovery Support Group (RSG), Residential Treatment Center (RTC) and Subacute Detoxification and testing as a part of office-based treatment. It is not applicable to INPATIENT Treatment.

Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of California Health & Wellness that *outpatient* testing for drugs of abuse (DOA) is **medically necessary** for presumptive (preliminary) testing for a specific drug(s) when meeting both of the following:
 - A. Indication meets one of the following:
 1. Verification of compliance with treatment, identification of undisclosed drug use or abuse, or evaluation of aberrant* behavior beginning at the start of treatment, as part of a routine monitoring program for individuals who meet one of the following (*Note: aberrant behavior includes, but is not limited to, lost prescriptions, repeated requests for early refills, and prescriptions from multiple providers, unauthorized dose escalation, and apparent intoxication):
 - a. Receiving treatment for chronic pain with prescription opioid or other potentially abused medications;
 - b. Undergoing treatment for, or monitoring for relapse of, opioid addiction or substance use disorder;
 2. Clinical evaluation suggests use of non-prescribed medications or illegal substances;
 3. On initial entrance into a pain management program;
 - B. Presumptive testing for substance use (80305 – 80307) must be medically necessary and documented in the medical record.
 1. For patients with 0 to 30 consecutive days of abstinence, presumptive testing may be performed randomly but no more often than 3 presumptive tests per week.
 2. For patients with 31 to 90 consecutive days of abstinence, presumptive tests may be performed randomly but no more often than weekly.
 3. For patients with > 90 consecutive days of abstinence, presumptive testing may be performed randomly but no more often than twice per month.

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

- II.** It is the policy of California Health & Wellness that *outpatient* testing for drugs of abuse (DOA) is **medically necessary** for confirmatory/definitive (quantitative) testing for a specific drug(s) when meeting *the criteria in A, B, or C*:
- A.** Documented history or suspicion of illicit or prescription drug use or noncompliance or a high probability of non-adherence to a prescribed drug regimen documented in the medical record; *and all of the following*:
 1. A preliminary/presumptive drug test has been previously performed, unless no reliable test exists;
 2. The findings from that preliminary/presumptive (qualitative) test (either positive or negative) are either:
 - a. Inconsistent with the expected results as suggested by medical history, clinical presentation, and/or member's/enrollee's own statement after a detailed discussion about their recent medication and drug use;
 - b. Consistent with the clinical scenario but drug class-specific assays are needed to identify the precise drug(s) that resulted in the positive test result;
 3. Resolving the inconsistency is essential to the ongoing care of the member/enrollee,
 4. The requested confirmatory/definitive test(s) is for ≤ 14 drugs/drug classes,
 5. Tests are only for the specific drug(s) or number of drug classes for which preliminary analysis has yielded unexpected results;
 - B.** The provider expects the presumptive test to be positive (e.g. the member/enrollee reports recent use), *and all of the following*:
 1. Information regarding specific substance and/or quantity is desired;
 2. There are established benchmarks for clinical decision making based on specific substance and/or quantitative levels;
 3. ≤ 14 drugs/drug classes are requested;
 4. Tests are only for the specific drug(s) or number of drug classes for which the presumptive test is expected to be positive;
 - C.** The request is for a serum therapeutic drug level in relation to the medical treatment of a disease or condition (e.g. phenobarbital level in the treatment of seizures).
 - D.** Confirmatory/Definitive testing for substance use (G0480-G0483) must be medically necessary and the medical record must include an appropriate testing frequency based on the stage of screening, treatment, or recovery; the rationale for the drugs/drug classes ordered and the results must be documented in the medical record and used to direct care.
 1. For patients with 0 to 30 consecutive days of abstinence, confirmatory /definitive testing may be performed no more often than 1 physician-directed testing profile in one week.
 2. For patients with 31 to 90 consecutive days of abstinence, confirmatory/definitive testing may be performed no more often than 3 physician-directed testing profiles in one month.
 3. For patients with > 90 consecutive days of abstinence, confirmatory/definitive testing may be performed no more often than 1 physician-directed testing profile in one month
- III.** It is the policy of California Health & Wellness that outpatient drug testing for drugs of abuse is considered not medically necessary unless all components of the panel have been

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

determined to be medically necessary based on the criteria above. A full panel screen should only be considered for initial testing when appropriate or when the behavior suggests the use of drugs not identified on the original screening. Medical documentation must support the justification for conducting a full panel screening.

- IV.** It is the policy of California Health & Wellness that the outpatient urine drug testing for drugs of abuse should be performed at an appropriate frequency based on clinical needs. The frequency of testing should be at the lowest level to detect the presence of drugs. Substance abuse treatment adherence is often best measured through random testing rather than frequent scheduled testing.
- V.** Urine drug testing is considered **not medically necessary** if provided for reasons that include, but are not limited to, the following:
- A.** As a condition of:
 - 1. Employment or pre-employment purposes (pre-requisite for employment or as a requirement for continuation of employment). OR
 - 2. Participation in school or community athletic or extracurricular activities or programs
 - B.** Screening for medico-legal purposes such as court-ordered drug screening (unless required by state regulations).
 - C.** Screening in asymptomatic patients, except as listed in sections I or II.
 - D.** As a component of a routine physical/medical examination; e.g. (enrollment in school, enrollment in the military, etc.).
 - E.** As a component of a medical examination for any other administrative purposes not listed above (e.g., for purposes of marriage licensure, insurance eligibility, etc.).
 - F.** Same-day screening of drug metabolites in specimens sourced from any combination of blood, saliva and urine by either preliminary or confirmatory/definitive analyses.
 - G.** Blanket orders.
 - H.** Reflex definitive drug tests when presumptive testing is performed at point of care.
 - I.** Routine standing orders for all patients in a physician's practice. Physician-defined standing orders for pre-determined drug panels according to specific patient profiles for a limited sequential period may be reasonable and necessary and must be documented in the patient's medical record.
 - J.** Billing of individual definitive CPT codes when a comprehensive definitive drug testing panel (CDDP) is ordered.
 - K.** Performing presumptive point of care testing and ordering presumptive immunoassay (IA) testing from a reference laboratory.
 - L.** Performing presumptive IA testing and ordering presumptive IA testing from a reference laboratory with or without reflex testing.
 - M.** Performing IA presumptive screening prior to definitive testing without a specific physician's order for the presumptive testing.
 - N.** IA testing, regardless of whether it is qualitative or semi-quantitative used to "confirm" or definitively identify a presumptive test result obtained by cups, dipsticks, cards, cassettes or other CLIA-waived methods. Semi-quantitative IA testing provides a presumptive test (numerical) result. Definitive UDT provides specific identification and/or quantification by GC-MS or LC-MS/MS.

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

- O. Specimen validity/adulteration testing, as this is considered part of the laboratory quality control practices.

Background

A drug of abuse is defined as a drug, chemical, or plant product known to be misused for recreational purposes. In the United States, the basic screening test for DOA includes five drugs: amphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, opioids, and phencyclidine. Other common drugs tested for include benzodiazepines, a wider range of opioids, barbiturates, and methamphetamine. These tests can vary by region based on epidemiologic trends. There currently is no uniformity for what is included in extended DOA assay testing, or what cutoff values should be used for detection of drugs that are not covered by workplace testing laws.

The three methods of drug assays include immunoassay, chromatography, and mass spectrometry. Immunoassay is the most widely used method for initial testing for DOA and offers results within minutes. They are able to detect low concentrations of a drug with a high degree of sensitivity but lack some specificity. This can be most easily performed using point-of-care test kits such as a urine drug cup. Unfortunately, in the clinical setting point-of-care testing does not perform to manufacturers' claims and untrained staff can improperly interpret test results.

Gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) or liquid chromatography (LC/MS) are typically used as confirmatory tests. Chromatography is used to separate a specimen into its component parts and mass spectrometry to identify those parts. Chromatography, LC/MS and GC/MS require highly trained lab staff and instruments to provide a highly sensitive and specific technique for detecting drugs or metabolites. It often takes many hours to obtain results, thus these methods are generally not used for initial screening in the clinical setting. The mass spectrometer is capable of detecting even minute amounts of a given substance and is considered to have the highest specificity of all lab detection methods. It is most commonly used for confirmatory test results that are primarily of forensic importance. GC/MS rarely provides results that are clinically necessary or useful beyond those obtained by standard immunoassays or chromatography.

The ordering clinician must be knowledgeable regarding the type of testing being requested, level of suspicion for drug use or exposure, the purpose for obtaining the test, and the likelihood of false-positive or false-negative results. Knowledge of potential drug exposure allows a clinician working in an addiction or chronic pain management program to include testing for a metabolite of a parent drug instead of simply testing for the parent drug for a patient with a tendency for opioid abuse. If initial screening does not correlate with expected findings, then confirmatory testing improves the accuracy of initial results especially with concern of false-positive or false-negative results.

Immunoassays can yield false-positive results when cross-reacting medications or drugs are present. Cross-reacting substances can be found in common prescription medications, over-the-counter cold medications, and even in some food substances. The highest false-positive results occur with amphetamine testing due to the chemical structure of amphetamine being present in

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

many over-the counter medications and herbal supplements. False-negative results can occur from improper specimen collection, transport, or testing procedures or from patient attempts to subvert the testing. The most common cause of false-negative results is a test failure to detect a specific drug within a given class of drugs.

Coding Implications

This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2020, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

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

*CPT Copyright 2015 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.
 CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

CPT®* Codes	Description
0011U	Prescription drug monitoring, evaluation of drugs present by LC-MS/MS, using oral fluid, reported as a comparison to an estimated steady-state range, per date of service including all drug compounds and metabolites
80184	Phenobarbital
80320	Alcohols
80321	Alcohol biomarkers; 1 or 2
80322	Alcohol biomarkers; 3 or more

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

CPT®* Codes	Description
80323	Alkaloids, not otherwise specified
80324	Amphetamines; 1 or 2
80325	Amphetamine; 3 or 4
80326	Amphetamines; 5 or more
80327	Anabolic steroids; 1 or 2
80328	Anabolic steroids; 3 or more
80332	Antidepressants, serotonergic class; 1 or 2
80333	Antidepressants, serotonergic class; 3-5
80334	Antidepressants, serotonergic class; 6 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
80338	Antidepressants, not otherwise specified
80339	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 1-3
80340	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 4-6
80341	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 7 or more
80342	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 1-3
80343	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 4-6
80344	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 7 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
80354	Fentanyl
80356	Heroin metabolite
80357	Ketamine and norketamine
80358	Methadone
80359	Methylenedioxyamphetamines (MDA, MDEA, MDMA)
80360	Methylphenidate
80361	Opiates, 1 or more
80362	Opioids and opiate analogs; 1 or 2
80363	Opioids and opiate analogs; 3 or 4
80364	Opioids and opiate analogs; 5 or more
80365	Oxycodone
80366	Pregbalin

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

CPT®* Codes	Description
80367	Propoxyphene
80368	Sedative Hypnotics (non-benzodiazepines)
80369	Skeletal muscle relaxants; 1 or 2
80370	Skeletal muscle relaxants; 3 or more
80371	Stimulants, synthetic
80372	Tapentadol
80373	Tramadol
80374	Stereoisomer (enantiomer) analysis, single drug class
80375	Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 1-3
80376	Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 4-6
80377	Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 7 or more
82077	Alcohol (ethanol); any specimen except urine and breath, immunoassay (eg, IA, EIA, ELISA, RIA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (eg, alcohol dehydrogenase)
83992	Phencyclidine (PCP)

HCPCS Codes	Description
G0480	Drug test(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 1-7 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
G0481	Drug test(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 8-14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
G0482	Drug test(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 15-21 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
G0483	Drug test(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 22 or more drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
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

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

HCPCS Codes	Description
	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

CPT Codes That Do Not Support Coverage Criteria

CPT® Codes	Description
0054U	Prescription drug monitoring, 14 or more classes of drugs and substances etc
0227U	Drug assay, presumptive, 30 or more drugs or metabolites, urine, liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) using multiple reaction monitoring (MRM), with drug or metabolite description, includes sample validation

HCPCS Codes That Support Coverage Criteria

HCPCS Codes	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(s), 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); definitive, qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 8-14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

HCPCS Codes	Description
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

CPT®	Description
0011U	Prescription drug monitoring, evaluation of drugs present by LC-MS/MS, using oral fluid, reported as a comparison to an estimated steady-state range, per date of service including all drug compounds and metabolites
80184	Phenobarbital
80320	Alcohols
80321	Alcohol biomarkers; 1 or 2
80322	Alcohol biomarkers; 3 or more
80323	Alkaloids, not otherwise specified
80324	Amphetamines; 1 or 2
80325	Amphetamine; 3 or 4
80326	Amphetamines; 5 or more
80327	Anabolic steroids; 1 or 2
80328	Anabolic steroids; 3 or more
80332	Antidepressants, serotonergic class; 1 or 2
80333	Antidepressants, serotonergic class; 3-5
80334	Antidepressants, serotonergic class; 6 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
80338	Antidepressants, not otherwise specified
80339	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 1-3
80340	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 4-6
80341	Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified; 7 or more
80342	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 1-3
80343	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 4-6
80344	Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified; 7 or more
80345	Barbiturates
80346	Benzodiazepines; 1-12
80347	Benzodiazepines; 13 or more
80348	Buprenorphine

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

CPT® Codes	Description
80349	Cannabinoids, natural
80350	Cannabinoids, synthetic; 1-3
80351	Cannabinoids, synthetic; 4-6
80352	Cannabinoids; synthetic; 7 or more
80353	Cocaine
80354	Fentanyl
80356	Heroin metabolite
80357	Ketamine and norketamine
80358	Methadone
80359	Methylenedioxyamphetamines (MDA, MDEA, MDMA)
80360	Methylphenidate
80361	Opiates, 1 or more
80362	Opioids and opiate analogs; 1 or 2
80363	Opioids and opiate analogs; 3 or 4
80364	Opioids and opiate analogs; 5 or more
80365	Oxycodone
80366	Pregbalin
80367	Propoxyphene
80368	Sedative Hypnotics (non-benzodiazepines)
80369	Skeletal muscle relaxants; 1 or 2
80370	Skeletal muscle relaxants; 3 or more
80371	Stimulants, synthetic
80372	Tapentadol
80373	Tramadol
80374	Stereoisomer (enantiomer) analysis, single drug class
80375	Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 1-3
80376	Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 4-6
80377	Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 7 or more
82077	Alcohol (ethanol); any specimen except urine and breath, immunoassay (eg, IA, EIA, ELISA, RIA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (eg, alcohol dehydrogenase)
83992	Phencyclidine (PCP)

ICD-10-CM Codes That Support Coverage Criteria

ICD-10-CM	Description
F10.10-F10.19	Alcohol abuse

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

ICD-10-CM	Description
F10.20-F10.29	Alcohol dependence
F10.90	Alcohol us unspecified
F10.920- F10.99	Alcohol use, unspecified
F11.10-F11.19	Opioid abuse
F11.20-F11.29	Opioid dependence
F11.90	Opioid use, unspecified
F11.920- F11.99	Opioid use, unspecified
F12.10-F12.19	Cannabis abuse
F12.20-F12.29	Cannabis dependence
F12.90	Cannabis use, unspecified
F12.920- F12.99	Cannabis use, unspecified
F13.10-F13.19	Sedative, hypnotic or anxiolytic abuse
F13.20-F13.29	Sedative, hypnotic or anxiolytic- related dependence
F13.9	Sedative, hyponic or anxiolytic –related use, unspecified
F13.920- F13.99	Sedative, hypnotic or anxiolytic- related use, unspecified
F14.10-F14.19	Cocaine abuse
F14.20-F14.29	Cocaine dependence
F14.9	Cocaine use, unspecified
F14.920- F14.99	Cocaine use, unspecified
F15.10-F15.19	Other stimulant abuse
F15.20-F15.29	Other stimulant dependence
F15.90	Other stimulant use, unspecified
F15.920- F15.99	Other stimulant use, unspecified
F16.10-F16.9	Hallucinogen abuse
F16.20-F16.29	Hallucinogen dependence
F16.90	Hallucinogen use, unspecified
F16.920- F16.99	Hallucinogen use, unspecified
F18.10-F18.19	Inhalant abuse
F18.20-F18.29	Inhalant dependence
F18.0	Inhalant use, unspecified
F18.920- F18.99	Inhalant use, unspecified
F19.10-F19.19	Other psychoactive substance abuse
F19.20-F19.29	Other psychoactive substance dependence
F19.9	Other psychoactive substance use, unspecified
F19.920- F19.99	Other psychoactive substance use, unspecified
F55.0	Abuse of antacids
F55.1	Abuse of herbal or folk remedies

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

ICD-10-CM	Description
F55.2	Abuse of laxatives
F55.3	Abuse of steroids or hormones
F55.4	Abuse of vitamins
F55.8	Abuse of other non-psychoactive substances

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Added language to allow for 5 days post specimen collection to request PA	07/14	07/14
Added background information	10/14	10/14
CPT codes updated per 2015 code changes	01/15	01/15
Added temporary HCPCS codes to code list	07/15	07/15
Added under Criteria: A.2.b option for concordant test results but specific quantitative analysis needed to identify specific drug	10/15	10/15
Health Net Policy developed based on Centene policy CP.MP. 50 (January 2016). Added new 2016 G codes for definitive drug testing, clarified in criteria the addition of definitive testing. Frequency testing included	02/16	2/17
Added same day urine/blood screening and sample validity testing limitations to the not medically necessary section. Replaced “qualitative” language with “preliminary,” and “quantitative” with “confirmatory/definitive.”	09/16	10/16
Updated Codes to note that G0477 – G0479 have been deleted as of 2017 and added new codes 80305 – 80307 and G0659	2/17	2/17
Health Net Update: Clarified policy to note that it applies to medical, surgical and behavioral health, removed definitive prior authorization requirements, added references Corporate Update: Added term “presumptive” and “qualitative” to preliminary drug testing. Codes reviewed and updated. Reviewed by neurology/pain management specialist. References reviewed and updated	9/17	10/17
Made the following changes based on the Centene Corporate policy: Modified criteria in I.A.1 that a presumptive test must be performed before a definitive test unless no reliable test is available. I.B. -Added an indication for testing when the presumptive test is assumed to be positive based on patient history, but quantitative levels are required. Modified II.C. to state that screening in asymptomatic patients is medically unnecessary, unless otherwise stated in section I.	08/18	08/18
Reviewed by MHN, no changes	8/19	8/19
Added U codes from Centene corporate policy, expanded ICD-10 codes	7/20	7/20
Combined with corporate policies where possible. Maintained HN frequency edits. Reformatted so presumptive and confirmatory have separate sections. Added H – O in section V for urine testing. Added CPT-0054U to list of codes that do not support coverage criteria. Removed CPT-0006U, as code is deleted in 2021.	3/21	3/21

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

Added 0227U per corporate policy	5/21	5/21
Updated ICD-10 codes to include code ranges based on Corporate policies	07/21	07/21
From the corporate policy on Testing for Drugs of Abuse Presumptive Combined opioid dependence and opioid use codes into ranges. Added the following codes: F10.90, F11.90, F12.90, F13.90, F14.90, F15.90, F16.90, F18.90, F19.90. Removed Z79.891.	8/21	8/21
*Added secondary table of CPT codes from corporate policy	7/22	7/22
Updated with changes (6/23) from corporate policy: Removed deleted codes 0143U, 0144U, 0145U, 0146U, 0147U, 0148U, 0149U, 0150U from table of CPT codes that do not support coverage criteria.	07/23	07/23

References

1. Alves M, Piccinotti, Alberto & Tamani, Silvia & Poletini, Aldo. (2013). Evaluation of Buprenorphine LUCIO Immunoassay versus GCMS Using Urines from a Workplace Drug Testing Program. *Journal of analytical toxicology*. 37. 10.1093/jat/bkt006.
2. Argoff CE, Alford DP, Fudin J, et al. Rational urine drug monitoring in patients receiving opioids for chronic pain: consensus recommendations. *Pain Medicine*, Jan 2018; 19(1), p. 97–117.
3. Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Treatment Improvement Protocol 63: Medications for Opioid Use Disorder. DHHS Publication No. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US); 2018.
4. Becker W, Starrels JL. Prescription drug misuse: Epidemiology, prevention, identification, and management. In: UpToDate, Saxon AJ (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA. Accessed 04/30/20.
5. Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Treatment Improvement Protocol 47: Substance Abuse: Clinical Issues in Intensive Outpatient Treatment. Rockville, MD. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US); 2013.
6. Christo PJ, Manchikanti L, Ruan X, et al. Urine Drug Testing in Chronic Pain. *Pain Physician* 2011;14:123-143.
7. Dowell D, Haegerich TM, Chou R. CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain — United States, 2016. *MMWR Recomm Rep* 2016;65(No. RR-1):1–49. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr6501e1>.
8. Hoffman RJ. Testing for drugs of abuse (DOA). In: UpToDate, Traub SJ (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA. Accessed 04/30/20.
9. Interagency Guideline on Prescribing Opioids for Pain. Developed by the Washington State Agency Medical Directors’ Group (AMDG) in collaboration with an Expert Advisory Panel, Actively Practicing Providers, Public Stakeholders, and Senior State Officials. June 2015.
10. Manchikanti L, Malla Y, Wargo BW, et al. Comparative Evaluation of the Accuracy of Immunoassay with Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) of Urine Drug Testing (UDT) Opioids and Illicit Drugs in Chronic Pain Patients. *Pain Physician* 2011;14:175-187.
11. McKay JR. Continuing care for addiction: Implementation. In: UpToDate, Saitz R and Saxon AJ (Eds), UpToDate, Waltham, MA. Accessed 04/30/20.
12. Moeller KE, Lee KC, Kissack JC. Urine Drug Screening: Practical Guide for Clinicians. *Mayo Clin Proc* 2008;83(1):66-76.

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

13. Wilfong A. Seizures and epilepsy in children: Initial treatment and monitoring. In: UpToDate, Nordli DR (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA. Accessed 04/30/20.
14. Hurford M, et al American Society of Addiction Medicine Consensus Statement. Appropriate Use of Drug Testing in Clinical Addiction Medicine. Adopted by the ASAM Board of Directors April 5, 2017. Endorsed by the American College of Medical Toxicology. Journal of Addiction Medicine. May/June 2017
15. Gourlay DL, Heit HA, Caplan YH. Urine Drug Testing in Clinical Practice. The Art and Science of Patient Care. Edition 6. Presented by the Center for Independent Healthcare Education. Aug 2015
16. Dasgupta A. Challenges in Laboratory Detection of Unusual Substance Abuse: Issues with Magic Mushroom, Peyote Cactus, Khat, and Solvent Abuse. Adv Clin Chem. 2017;78:163-186.
17. Snyder ML, Fantz CR, Melanson S. Immunoassay-Based Drug Tests Are Inadequately Sensitive for Medication Compliance Monitoring in Patients Treated for Chronic Pain. Pain Physician. 2017 Feb;20(2S):SE1-SE9.
18. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local coverage determination: controlled substance monitoring and drugs of abuse testing (L36029). CMS.gov. Effective date 11/21/2019. Accessed 4/30/20.
19. CMS. Local coverage determination: Drugs of abuse testing (L34457). CMS.gov <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx>. Effective April 2, 2015. Accessed March, 2021
20. CMS. Local coverage determination: Controlled substance monitoring and drugs of abuse testing (L36668). CMS.gov. Effective Date: June 28, 2016. Accessed March, 2021.

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

CLINICAL POLICY

Outpatient Testing for Drugs of Abuse

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

Note: For Medicare members, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

©2016 Centene Corporation. All rights reserved. All materials are exclusively owned by Centene Corporation and are protected by United States copyright law and international copyright law. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, modified, distributed, displayed, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, or otherwise published without the prior written permission of Centene Corporation. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice contained herein. Centene® and Centene Corporation® are registered trademarks exclusively owned by Centene Corporation.