

Revised Drug Testing Reimbursement Policy – Effective Jan. 1, 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

Key Points

- For dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2018, we've revised our Urine Drug Testing (UDT) Reimbursement Policy to limit annual reimbursement of drug testing for many UnitedHealthcare commercial and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members.
- Reimbursement is limited to 18 dates of service for presumptive drug tests (80305, 80306, 80307) and 18 dates of service for definitive drug tests (G0480, G0481, G0482, G0483, G0659), whether submitted by the same or different provider.
- These reimbursement limits apply to many UnitedHealthcare commercial plan and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members.

Overview

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2018, UnitedHealthcare's Urine Drug Testing (UDT) Reimbursement Policy applies an annual limit for presumptive and definitive drug tests. The policy will limit frequency to 18 dates of service for presumptive drug tests (80305, 80306, 80307) and 18 dates of service for definitive drug tests (G0480, G0481, G0482, G0483, G0659) submitted by the same or different provider.

The policy applies to all UnitedHealthcare commercial plans, including affiliate plans. You can review the policy at UHCprovider.com/policies > Commercial Policies > Reimbursement Policies for UnitedHealthcare Commercial > Drug Testing Reimbursement Policy for Commercial Plans.

These drug testing coverage limits also apply to UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members in the following states:

- Hawaii
- Massachusetts
- Nebraska
- New Jersey*
- New Mexico
- New York*
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Virginia*
- Washington

*For UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members in New Jersey, New York and Virginia, the policy also applies to definitive drug tests using CPT® on the Drug Assay codes 80320-80377 and 83992.

Drug testing services that are determined to be court ordered and/or funded by a county, state or federal agency will continue to be denied as non-covered services. For additional information, refer to the Services and Modifiers Not Reimbursable to Healthcare Professionals Policy.

The policy applies to routine outpatient services reported using the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (CMS-1500), its electronic equivalent or its successor form.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q1. Why did UnitedHealthcare implement a Urine Drug Testing (UDT) Reimbursement Policy?

A1. The policy aims to reduce overutilization, while continuing to provide members access to services. It's another step we're taking in support of our commitment to the Triple Aim of improving health care services, health outcomes and overall cost of care.

Q2. What's changing?

A2. UnitedHealthcare's existing Urine Drug Testing (UDT) policy allows for one presumptive test and one definitive test which may be billed for an individual member, per date of service. Claims for subsequent tests given on the same day will be denied.

Enhancements to the policy, which became effective Jan. 1, 2018, added annual limits of 18 dates of service for presumptive drug tests (80305, 80306, 80307) and 18 dates of service for definitive drug tests (G0480, G0481, G0482, G0483, G0659). These limits apply whether claims are submitted by the same or different care provider.

Q3. How can care providers check whether a member has reached their annual limit?

A3. Care providers or members can call our customer service to obtain this information.

Q4. What's the difference between "presumptive" and "definitive" drug testing?

A4. A presumptive or screening test identifies possible use or non-use of a drug or drug class. Presumptive tests screen for the presence of a compound. A definitive or confirmation test uses instrument analysis to positively identify the presence or quantity of a specific drug.

Q5. What are some examples of drugs or classes that are commonly found by presumptive tests, followed by definitive testing?

A5. Care providers may use these tests to determine the presence of certain substances in a patient's body including amphetamines, barbiturates/sedatives, benzodiazepines, cocaine and metabolites, methadone, antihistamines, stimulants, opioid analgesics, salicylates, cardiovascular drugs, antipsychotics, cyclic antidepressants and others.

Q6. Does UnitedHealthcare cover drug testing for employment purposes?

A6. No. We don't reimburse for testing for employment purposes, such as a pre-requisite for a job or continuation of employment. Additionally, we don't reimburse for court-ordered drug testing.

Q7. Does this policy require prior authorization for each urine drug testing (UDT)?

A7. No. The policy doesn't require prior authorization for urine drug testing (UDT), regardless of network participation.

Q8. Does the policy only apply to in network providers?

A8. No. 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.

Q9. Does the policy limit drug testing when a member is being treated for a substance use disorder in a facility-based treatment setting or non-routine outpatient setting?

A9. No. the policy only applies to routine outpatient services.

Q10. Does the policy apply to testing performed for assessing both medical and behavioral conditions?

A10. Yes. This policy applies to testing performed for assessing both medical and behavioral conditions

Q11. Who do I contact if I have questions?

A11. Please contact your provider advocate with questions. Thank you.

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