

BENEFIT COVERAGE POLICY

Title: BCP-78 Drug Testing in Pain Management and Substance Use Disorders Treatment

Effective Date: 01/01/2019



Physicians Health Plan
PHP Insurance Company
PHP Service Company

Important Information - Please Read Before Using This Policy

The following coverage policy applies to health benefit plans administered by PHP and may not be covered by all PHP plans. Please refer to the member's benefit document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's benefit document, the member's benefit document will be used to determine coverage. For example, a member's benefit document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a coverage policy.

Coverage determinations for individual requests require consideration of:

1. The terms of the applicable benefit document in effect on the date of service.
2. Any applicable laws and regulations.
3. Any relevant collateral source materials including coverage policies.
4. The specific facts of the particular situation.

Contact PHP Customer Service to discuss plan benefits more specifically.

1.0 Policy:

This policy addresses drug testing in the outpatient and residential setting for adherence monitoring of controlled substance use as part of the management of chronic pain and for individuals undergoing treatment for opioid addiction and substance use disorder.

This policy does not address the use of urine drug testing in the following circumstances:

- Emergency department testing, including for the detection of potential overdose or poisoning.
- Screening for commercial drivers licensing, or any other job-related testing.
- State/legally mandated drug testing.

Please refer to the member's benefit plan coverage guidelines for Outpatient Diagnostic Testing and associated payment reimbursement policy, PRP-02. Benefit plans may include a maximum allowable benefit, either in duration of treatment or in number of visits, for example. When the maximum allowable benefit is exhausted, coverage may no longer be provided even if the medical necessity criteria are met.

For all non-network covered services to be paid at the network benefit level except for emergency/urgent services, prior approval is required.

Unlisted codes are subject to review.

Refer to member's benefit coverage document for specific benefit description, guidelines, coverage, and exclusions.

This policy does not guarantee or approve Benefits. Coverage depends on the specific Benefit plan and member eligibility. Benefit Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should not be used as treatment guidelines. Delegated vendor guidelines may be used to support medical necessity and other coverage determinations.

2.0 Background:

Federal guidelines for treatment programs are published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and can be accessed via the link below in section 7.0 References, Citations, and Resources.

Drug testing includes a variety of tests that can be useful in providing patient care. Clinical drug testing is used in pain management and in substance use screening and treatment programs. Testing may be used to detect prescribed therapeutic drugs, prescription drugs of abuse, illicit drugs, and/or other substances such as nicotine. Urinalysis is usually preferred for determining the presence or absence of prescription medications and illegal substances. It has a one to three-day window for detection for most drugs and/or their metabolites and is currently the most extensively validated biologic specimen for drug testing. Testing for alcohol should be done by breath or blood testing.

A. A routine drug panel includes:

1. Marijuana metabolites.
2. Cocaine metabolites.
3. Opiate metabolites (morphine, hydrocodone, codeine, heroin, hydromorphone).
4. Phencyclidine (PCP).
5. Amphetamines (Adderall, Dexedrine, Ritalin, Concerta, crystal methamphetamine).

B. There are two primary categories of urine drug testing (UDT):

1. Presumptive (screening, qualitative testing).
 - a. Can be performed in a laboratory or point-of-service (immunoassay).
 - b. A qualitative analysis of a sample to determine whether a specific drug, drug metabolite or substance is detectable.
 - c. Reported as either positive (drug level above a pre-specified threshold) or negative (drug level below a pre-specified threshold). A test reported as negative does not necessarily mean the drug, or its metabolite is absent.
 - d. A rapid turnaround time of minutes for on-site tests, and one to four hours for laboratory-based tests.
2. Definitive (confirmatory, quantitative testing)
 - a. Always performed in a laboratory (chromatography or spectrometry).
 - b. Considered to be the criterion standard.
 - c. Quantifies the amount of a specified drug(s) or metabolite(s) present in a urine sample identified by a screening test OR identifies drugs that cannot be isolated in a screening test.
 - d. Turnaround time is several days.

C. Full informed consent is required before UDT.

D. Laboratory-developed tests must meet the general regulatory standards of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).

E. Laboratories that offer laboratory-developed tests must be licensed by CLIA for high-complexity testing. A CLIA waiver is available for the use of certain point-of-care immunoassays (i.e., tests considered to be simple, with low risk of error and low potential for harm).

3.0 Benefit Guidelines:

A. Presumptive and definitive drug testing:

1. Not to exceed one unit per date of service.
2. Up to 20 units per year (combined presumptive and definitive drug testing) is considered medically necessary when there is a suspicion of drug misuse by the individual being tested and the following are met:
 - a. Diagnosis, history and physical examination and/or behavior of the individual being tested support the need for the specific drug testing being requested.
 - b. The results of drug testing will impact treatment planning.
 - c. The testing is performed for treatment in a physician-supervised treatment setting.

B. Treatment Compliance Monitoring Program:

1. The following service limitations apply to urine drug screenings except when performed as part of an emergency room visit, an observation or inpatient admission.
 - a. One screening is routine for entrance into the program, the Induction Phase. Weekly screenings are covered for a maximum of four weeks during a substance abuse Stabilization Phase of a treatment program. Following the four-week period, two random or targeted urine screenings are covered per month during the Maintenance Phase of treatment.
 - b. Definitive testing is covered only to verify and further analyze positive results of UDT screening and/or buprenorphine levels.
 - c. Testing should include both an order for the test and rationale for the testing.
 - d. Clinical documentation should reflect how the results of testing will be used to guide clinical care.

C. Services that are not covered:

1. Saliva (CPT 0011U), sweat, and hair (HCPCS P2031) drug testing is considered experimental/investigational.
2. Routine testing to confirm specimen integrity; e.g., urinalysis (CPT 81005), creatinine concentration (CPT 82570), presence of oxidizing agent, pH (CPT 83986), temperature.
3. Specimen verification including DNA authentication in comparison to buccal DNA (CPT 0007U, 0020U).
4. Testing ordered by or on behalf of third parties (e.g., school, courts, or employers) for legal or other non-medical purposes is specifically excluded.

4.0 Coding:

Prior Approval Legend: Y = All lines of business; N = None required; 1 = HMO/POS; 2 = PPO; 3 = ASO group L0000264; 4 = ASO group L0001269 Non-Union; 5 = ASO group L0001631; 6 = ASO group L0002011; 7 = ASO group L0001269 Union.

COVERED CODES			
Code	Description	Prior Approval	Benefit Plan Reference
80305 (Presumptive)	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures; capable of being read by direct optical observation only (eg, utilizing	N	Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Diagnostic Services

COVERED CODES			
Code	Description	Prior Approval	Benefit Plan Reference
	immunoassay [eg, dipsticks, cups, cards, or cartridges]), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service		
80306 (Presumptive)	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures; read by instrument assisted direct optical observation (eg, utilizing immunoassay [eg, dipsticks, cups, cards, or cartridges]), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service	N	Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Diagnostic Services
80307 (Presumptive)	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	N	Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Diagnostic Services
G0480 (Definitive)	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 and excluding immunoassays (eg, IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (eg, alcohol dehydrogenase); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day, 1-7 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.	N	Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Diagnostic Services
G0481 (Definitive)	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 and excluding	N	Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Diagnostic Services

COVERED CODES			
Code	Description	Prior Approval	Benefit Plan Reference
	immunoassays (eg, IA, EIA, ELISA, NEMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (eg, alcohol dehydrogenase); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day, 8-14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.		
G0659 (Definitive)	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	N	Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Diagnostic Services

NON-COVERED CODES (list may not be all-inclusive)		
Code	Description	Benefit Plan Reference/Reason
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	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
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	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
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	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
81003	Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service

NON-COVERED CODES (list may not be all-inclusive)

Code	Description	Benefit Plan Reference/Reason
	these constituents; automated, without microscopy	
81005	Urinalysis; qualitative or semiquantitative, except immunoassays	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
81099	Unlisted urinalysis procedure	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
82570	Creatinine, other source	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
83986	pH; body fluid, not otherwise specified	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
0006U	Prescription drug monitoring, 120 or more drugs and substances, definitive tandem mass spectrometry with chromatography, urine, qualitative report of presence (including quantitative levels, when detected) or absence of each drug or substance with description and severity of potential interactions, with identified substances, per date of service	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
0007U	Drug test(s), presumptive, with definitive confirmation of positive results, any number of drug classes, urine, includes specimen verification including DNA authentication in comparison to buccal DNA, per date of service	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
0020U	Drug test(s), presumptive, with definitive confirmation of positive results, any number of drug classes, urine, with specimen verification including DNA authentication in comparison to buccal DNA, per date of service	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
G0482	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 and excluding immunoassays (eg, IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (eg, alcohol dehydrogenase)); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day, 15-21 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.)	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
G0483	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 and excluding immunoassays (eg, IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (eg, alcohol dehydrogenase)); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day, 22 or more drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.	Does not meet definition of Covered Health Service
P2031	Hair analysis (excluding arsenic)	Experimental, investigational, or

NON-COVERED CODES (list may not be all-inclusive)

Code	Description	Benefit Plan Reference/Reason
		unproven

5.0 Unique Configuration/Prior Approval/Coverage Details:

~~5.0~~ none

5.0 Terms & Definitions:

~~5.0~~ **5.0** Adulteration – any process used in an attempt to alter the results of a drug test.

~~5.0~~ **5.0** Amphetamine – a synthetic, addictive, mood-altering drug, used illegally as a stimulant and legally as a prescription drug to treat children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and adults with narcolepsy (an uncontrollable urge to sleep).

~~5.0~~ **5.0** Buprenorphine (Buprenex, Subutex, etc.) – a narcotic used to treat pain as well as addiction to opioids. Very serious interactions can occur when used with alcohol.

~~5.0~~ **5.0** Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA accredited) – a national program that regulates laboratories which perform testing on patient specimens to ensure accurate and reliable test results.

~~5.0~~ **5.0** Cocaine – a powerfully addictive stimulant drug made from the leaves of the coca plant native to South America. Although health care providers can use it for valid medical purposes, such as local anesthesia for some surgeries, cocaine is an illegal drug.

6. Detoxification (detox) – a medically supervised program for withdrawal from drugs of abuse. May be voluntary or involuntary. Short term detox programs range from 7 - 30 days. Long term residential rehab programs average from 60 – 180 days, with some programs up to one year.

7. Heroin – an opioid drug made from morphine, a natural substance taken from the seed pod of the various opium poppy plants grown in Southeast and Southwest Asia, Mexico, and Columbia.

8. High-complexity test – a test used to confirm results of a screening 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 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

9. Marijuana – the dried leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds from the hemp plant, Cannabis sativa. The plant contains the mind-altering chemical delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and other related compounds.

10. Methamphetamine is a stimulant drug usually used as a white, bitter-tasting powder or a pill. Crystal methamphetamine is a form of the drug that looks like glass fragments or shiny, bluish-white rocks.

11. Opioids – a class of drugs that includes the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine, and many others.

12. Point-of-Care Test – a drug test conducted at the collection site, bedside or a health care provider’s office using dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges or instrumented test systems, such as discrete multichannel chemistry analyzers using immuno- or enzyme assay. These tests are simple and have a low risk of incorrect results. A CLIA waiver is available for Point-of-Care test sites.

13. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – an agency established by Congress in 1992, within the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA provides leadership,

supports programs and services, and devotes resources to helping the U.S. act on the knowledge that behavioral health is essential to health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people recover.

7.0 References, Citations & Resources:

1. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). Public Policy Statement on “Drug Testing as a Component of Addiction Treatment and Monitoring Programs and in Other Clinical Settings,” October 1, 2010. <https://www.asam.org/advocacy/find-a-policy-statement/view-policy-statement/public-policy-statements/2011/12/15/drug-testing-as-a-component-of-addiction-treatment-and-monitoring-programs-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. Available at: <http://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/public-policy-statements/-pdf-.pdf?sfvrsn=0>.
3. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Drugs of Abuse. Available at: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids>.
4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Federal guidelines for opioid treatment programs. March 2015. Accessed Jan 4, 2018. Available at URL address: <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//PEP15-FEDGUIDEOTP/PEP15-FEDGUIDEOTP.pdf>.
5. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Drug use, illicit: screening. Release date Jan 2008. Available at URL address: [http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Topic/recommendation-summary/drug-use-illicit-screening?ds=1&s=drug screening](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Topic/recommendation-summary/drug-use-illicit-screening?ds=1&s=drug%20screening).
6. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Final Research Plan Final Research Plan for Drug Use in Adolescents and Adults, Including Pregnant Women: Screening. Current as of Oct 2016. Available at URL address: <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/final-research-plan/drug-use-in-adolescents-and-adults-including-pregnant-women-screening>.

8.0 Associated Documents [For internal use only]:

- Business Process Flow (BPF) – None.
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – SOP 007 Algorithm for Use of Resources for Benefit Determinations, MM03 Benefit Determinations.
- Desk Level Procedure (DLP) – None.
- Sample Letter – None.
- Form – Prior Authorization Request Form
- Other – None.

9.0 Revision History

Original Effective Date: 01/01/2019
 Last Approval Date: 11/12/2018
 Next Review Date: 08/14/2020

Revision Date	Reason for Revision
July 2018	Policy created