



If a conflict arises between a Clinical Payment and Coding Policy (“CPCP”) and any plan document under which a member is entitled to Covered Services, the plan document will govern. If a conflict arises between a CPCP and any provider contract pursuant to which a provider participates in and/or provides Covered Services to eligible member(s) and/or plans, the provider contract will govern. “Plan documents” include, but are not limited to, Certificates of Health Care Benefits, benefit booklets, Summary Plan Descriptions, and other coverage documents. BCBSNM may use reasonable discretion interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. BCBSNM has full and final discretionary authority for their interpretation and application to the extent provided under any applicable plan documents.

Providers are responsible for submission of accurate documentation of services performed. Providers are expected to submit claims for services rendered using valid code combinations from Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) approved code sets. Claims should be coded appropriately according to industry standard coding guidelines including, but not limited to: Uniform Billing (“UB”) Editor, American Medical Association (“AMA”), Current Procedural Terminology (“CPT®”), CPT® Assistant, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (“HCPCS”), ICD-10 CM and PCS, National Drug Codes (“NDC”), Diagnosis Related Group (“DRG”) guidelines, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”) National Correct Coding Initiative (“NCCI”) Policy Manual, CCI table edits and other CMS guidelines.

Claims are subject to the code edit protocols for services/procedures billed. Claim submissions are subject to claim review including but not limited to, any terms of benefit coverage, provider contract language, medical policies, clinical payment and coding policies as well as coding software logic. Upon request, the provider is urged to submit any additional documentation.

General Inflammation Testing

Policy Number: CPCPLAB049

Version 1.0

Enterprise Medical Policy Committee Approval Date: 1/25/2022

Plan Effective Date: May 1, 2022

Description

BCBSNM has implemented certain lab management reimbursement criteria. Not all requirements apply to each product. Providers are urged to review Plan documents for eligible coverage for services rendered.

Reimbursement Information:

1. Measurement of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) for patients with Hodgkin Lymphoma **may be reimbursable**.
2. Measurement of either C-Reactive Protein (CRP) or ESR in the diagnosis, assessment and monitoring of inflammatory disorders, and/or undiagnosed conditions, and/or to detect acute phase inflammation **may be reimbursable** (please see Note 1).

3. Concurrent measurement of CRP and ESR **may be reimbursable** in the diagnosis of periprosthetic joint infections (PJI).
4. For any condition other than PJI, measurement of both CRP and ESR, at the same visit, in the diagnosis, assessment and monitoring of inflammatory disorders, and/or undiagnosed conditions, and/or to detect acute phase inflammation **is not reimbursable**
5. Measurement of either CRP and/or ESR during general exam without abnormal findings **is not reimbursable**.

NOTE 1:

For policy regarding the use of CRP as a cardiac biomarker, please see policy CPCPLAB046 Cardiac Biomarkers for Myocardial Infarction.

Procedure Codes

Codes
85651, 85652, 86140

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Policy Update History:

5/1/2022	New policy
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