



# Reimbursement Policy

**Policy Number:** RPLAB048

**Policy Title:** Folate Testing

**Approval Date:** May 15, 2026

**Effective Date:** Sept. 4, 2026

## Policy Disclaimer

If a conflict arises between a Reimbursement Policy and any Plan document under which a member is entitled to covered services, the Plan document will govern. If a conflict arises between a reimbursement policy 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's 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. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma may use reasonable discretion interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. BCBSOK has full and final discretionary authority for their interpretation and application to the extent provided under any applicable Plan documents.

Providers are responsible for submitting 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 approved code sets. Claims should be coded appropriately according to industry standard coding guidelines including, but not limited to: Uniform Billing Editor, American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Assistant, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, National Drug Codes, Diagnosis Related Group guidelines, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual, CCI table edits and other CMS guidelines.

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

## Description

---

The Plan 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 serum folate concentration **may be reimbursable** in **any** of the following situations:
  - a. For individuals with megaloblastic anemia or macrocytic anemia;
  - b. For individuals who have undergone, or for those who have been scheduled for, bariatric procedures such as Roux-en Y gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy, or biliopancreatic diversion/duodenal switch.
2. For all indications not described above, measurement of serum folate concentration **is not reimbursable**.
3. For all indications, measurement of red blood cell (RBC) folate **is not reimbursable**.
4. For all situations, folate receptor autoantibody testing **is not reimbursable**.

## Procedure Codes

---

The following is not an all-encompassing code list. The inclusion of a code does not guarantee it is a covered service or eligible for reimbursement.

Code	Description
82746	ASSAY OF FOLIC ACID SERUM
82747	ASSAY OF FOLIC ACID RBC
0399U	NEURO CERE FOLATE DEFNCY SRM

CPT copyright 2025 American Medical Association (AMA). All rights reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the AMA.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2026). Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II.

## References

---

1. NIH. Folate Dietary Supplement Fact Sheet. National Institutes of Health. Updated November 30, 2022. <https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/Folate-HealthProfessional/>
2. Means Jr RT, Fairfield KM. Causes and pathophysiology of vitamin B12 and folate deficiencies. Updated October 2, 2025. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/causes-and-pathophysiology-of-vitamin-b12-and-folate-deficiencies>
3. IOM. The National Academies Collection: Reports funded by National Institutes of Health. *Dietary Reference Intakes for Thiamin, Riboflavin, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Folate, Vitamin B12, Pantothenic Acid, Biotin, and Choline*. National Academies Press (US) National Academy of Sciences.; 1998.
4. Finer S, Saravanan P, Hitman G, Yajnik C. The role of the one-carbon cycle in the developmental origins of Type 2 diabetes and obesity. *Diabetic Medicine*. March 01, 2014 2013;31(3):263-272. doi:10.1111/dme.12390
5. Means Jr RT, Fairfield KM. Clinical manifestations and diagnosis of vitamin B12 and folate deficiency. Updated December 16, 2025. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/clinical-manifestations-and-diagnosis-of-vitamin-b12-and-folate-deficiency>
6. Imbard A, Benoist J-F, Blom HJ. Neural Tube Defects, Folic Acid and Methylation. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2013;10(9):4352-4389. doi:10.3390/ijerph10094352
7. Rothenberg SP, da Costa MP, Sequeira JM, et al. Autoantibodies against Folate Receptors in Women with a Pregnancy Complicated by a Neural-Tube Defect. *New England Journal of Medicine*. January 08, 2004 2004;350(2):134-142. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa031145
8. Bibbins-Domingo K, Grossman DC, Curry SJ, et al. Folic Acid Supplementation for the Prevention of Neural Tube Defects: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. *Jama*. 2017;317(2):183-189. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.19438
9. Food Fortification Initiative. Global Progress. <https://ffinetwork.org/global-progress/>
10. CDC. Folic Acid: Facts for Clinicians. Updated May 20, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/folic-acid/hcp/clinical-overview/index.html>
11. Crider KS, Bailey LB, Berry RJ. Folic acid food fortification-its history, effect, concerns, and future directions. *Nutrients*. 2011;3(3):370-84. doi:10.3390/nu3030370
12. Sequeira JR, Vincent Quadros, Edward. The diagnostic utility of folate receptor autoantibodies in blood 2012;doi:10.1515/cclm-2012-0577
13. Fratnow. What is FRAT? <https://www.fratnow.com/>
14. Wu A, Chanarin I, Slavin G, Levi AJ. Folate Deficiency in the Alcoholic—its Relationship to Clinical and Haematological Abnormalities, Liver Disease and Folate Stores. *British Journal of Haematology*. March 01, 1975 1975;29(3):469-478. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2141.1975.tb01844.x
15. Galloway M, Rushworth L. Red cell or serum folate? Results from the National Pathology Alliance benchmarking review. *Journal of clinical pathology*. 2003;56(12):924-6. doi:10.1136/jcp.56.12.924
16. Shojanian AM, von Kuster K. Ordering folate assays is no longer justified for investigation of anemias, in folic acid fortified countries. *BMC Research Notes*. 2010;3:22-22. doi:10.1186/1756-0500-3-22

- 
17. Joelson DW, Fiebig EW, Wu AH. Diminished need for folate measurements among indigent populations in the post folic acid supplementation era. *Archives of pathology & laboratory medicine*. Mar 2007;131(3):477-80. doi:10.5858/2007-131-477-DNFFMA
  18. Gregory IIIJF, Swendseid ME, Jacob RA. Urinary Excretion of Folate Catabolites Responds to Changes in Folate Intake More Slowly than Plasma Folate and Homocysteine Concentrations and Lymphocyte DNA Methylation in Postmenopausal Women. *The Journal of Nutrition*. 2000;130(12):2949-2952. doi:10.1093/jn/130.12.2949
  19. Epstein-Peterson ZD, Li DG, Lavery JA, Barrow B, Chokshi I, Korenstein D. Inpatient folate testing at an academic cancer center: single-year experience. *Support Care Cancer*. January 03, 2020 2020;doi:10.1007/s00520-019-05267-1
  20. Tran K, Mierzwinski-Urban M, Mahood Q. Folate Testing in People With Suspected Folate Deficiency. *Canadian Journal of Health Technologies*. 2022;2(3)doi:10.51731/cjht.2022.295
  21. CDC. Folic Acid. Updated May 20, 2025 <https://www.cdc.gov/folic-acid/about/>
  22. ASCP. ASCP News. *Critical Values*. 2017;11(1):34-39. doi:10.1093/crival/vax040
  23. Gonzalez-Campoy JM, St Jeor ST, Castorino K, et al. Clinical practice guidelines for healthy eating for the prevention and treatment of metabolic and endocrine diseases in adults: cosponsored by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists/the American College of Endocrinology and the Obesity Society. *Endocrine practice : official journal of the American College of Endocrinology and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists*. 2013;19 Suppl 3:1-82. doi:10.4158/ep13155.gi
  24. Handelsman Y, Bloomgarden ZT, Grunberger G, et al. American association of clinical endocrinologists and american college of endocrinology - clinical practice guidelines for developing a diabetes mellitus comprehensive care plan - 2015. *Endocrine practice : official journal of the American College of Endocrinology and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists*. 2015;21 Suppl 1:1-87. doi:10.4158/ep15672.GI
  25. Blonde L, Umpierrez GE, Reddy SS, et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinology Clinical Practice Guideline: Developing a Diabetes Mellitus Comprehensive Care Plan-2022 Update. *Endocrine practice : official journal of the American College of Endocrinology and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists*. 2022;28(10):923-1049. doi:10.1016/j.eprac.2022.08.002
  26. Jellinger PS, Handelsman Y, Rosenblit PD, et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and American College of Endocrinology Guidelines for Management of Dyslipidemia and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease. *Endocrine practice : official journal of the American College of Endocrinology and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists*. Apr 2017;23(Suppl 2):1-87. doi:10.4158/ep171764.appgl
  27. Mechanick JI, Apovian C, Brethauer S, et al. Clinical Practice Guidelines For The Perioperative Nutrition, Metabolic, And Nonsurgical Support Of Patients Undergoing Bariatric Procedures - 2019 Update: Cosponsored By American Association Of Clinical Endocrinologists/American College Of Endocrinology, The Obesity Society, American Society For Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery, Obesity Medicine Association, And American Society Of Anesthesiologists - Executive Summary. *Endocrine practice : official journal of the American College of Endocrinology and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists*. 2019;25(12):1346-1359. doi:10.4158/gl-2019-0406

- 
28. Bladder cancer: diagnosis and management (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) (2015).
  29. NICE. Maternal and child nutrition: nutrition and weight management in pregnancy, and nutrition in children up to 5 years. Updated January 15, 2025.  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng247/chapter/Recommendations>
  30. Kaferle J, Strzoda CE. Evaluation of macrocytosis. *American family physician*. 2009;79(3):203-8.
  31. AAFP. Choosing Wisely Recommendations. American Academy of Family Physicians.  
<https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/collections/choosing-wisely/350.html>
  32. Knopman DS, DeKosky ST, Cummings JL, et al. Practice parameter: diagnosis of dementia (an evidence-based review). Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*. 2001;56(9):1143-53.  
doi:10.1212/WNL.56.9.1143
  33. KDIGO. KDIGO 2026 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). *Kidney International*. 2026;109(1):S1-S99.  
doi:10.1016/j.kint.2025.06.006
  34. Choban P, Dickerson R, Malone A, Worthington P, Compher C. A.S.P.E.N. Clinical Guidelines: nutrition support of hospitalized adult patients with obesity. *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*. November 01, 2013 2013;37(6):714-744.  
doi:10.1177/0148607113499374
  35. McClave SA, Taylor BE, Martindale RG, et al. Guidelines for the Provision and Assessment of Nutrition Support Therapy in the Adult Critically Ill Patient: Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.). *JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2016;40(2):159-211.  
doi:10.1177/0148607115621863
  36. Compher C, Bingham AL, McCall M, et al. Guidelines for the provision of nutrition support therapy in the adult critically ill patient: The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. *JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2022;46(1):12-41.  
doi:10.1002/jpen.2267
  37. Mehta NM, Skillman HE, Irving SY, et al. Guidelines for the Provision and Assessment of Nutrition Support Therapy in the Pediatric Critically Ill Patient: Society of Critical Care Medicine and American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. *Pediatr Crit Care Med*. 2017;18(7):675-715. doi:10.1097/pcc.0000000000001134
  38. Thompson KL, Elliott L, Fuchs-Tarlovsky V, Levin RM, Voss AC, Piemonte T. Oncology Evidence-Based Nutrition Practice Guideline for Adults. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. 2017;117(2):297-310.e47. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2016.05.010
  39. Dignass AU, Gasche C, Bettenworth D, et al. European consensus on the diagnosis and management of iron deficiency and anaemia in inflammatory bowel diseases. *Journal of Crohn's & colitis*. 2015;9(3):211-22. doi:10.1093/ecco-jcc/jju009
  40. Rubio-Tapia A, Hill ID, Kelly CP, Calderwood AH, Murray JA. ACG clinical guidelines: diagnosis and management of celiac disease. *The American journal of gastroenterology*. 2013;108(5):656-76; quiz 677. doi:10.1038/ajg.2013.79
  41. Rubio-Tapia A, Hill ID, Semrad C, et al. American College of Gastroenterology Guidelines Update: Diagnosis and Management of Celiac Disease. *Official journal of the American*

---

*College of Gastroenterology | ACG. 2023;118(1):59-76.*

doi:10.14309/ajg.0000000000002075

42. Devalia V, Hamilton MS, Molloy AM. Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of cobalamin and folate disorders. *Br J Haematol.* 2014;166(4):496-513. doi:10.1111/bjh.12959
43. Killick SB, Bown N, Cavenagh J, et al. Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of adult aplastic anaemia. *Br J Haematol.* 2016;172(2):187-207. doi:10.1111/bjh.13853
44. BCSH. Guidelines for the Investigation and Management of Vitamin B12 and Folate Deficiency. Updated April, 2018. <https://www.hey.nhs.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/vitaminB12FolateDeficiency.pdf>
45. Mikhail A, Brown C, Williams JA, et al. Renal association clinical practice guideline on Anaemia of Chronic Kidney Disease. *BMC nephrology.* 2017;18(1):345. doi:10.1186/s12882-017-0688-1
46. NCCN. NCCN Guidelines Myelodysplastic Syndromes. Updated January 12, 2026. [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/mds.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/mds.pdf)

## Policy History

Approval Date	Description
05/15/2026	09/04/2026; Document updated with literature review. No changes. References revised.
07/25/2025	11/07/2025; Document updated with literature review. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: #1 updated to allow serum folic acid testing for all types of anemia and for those who will or who have already undergone bariatric procedures. Now reads: Measurement of serum folate concentration may be reimbursable in any of the following situations: a) For individuals with megaloblastic or macrocytic anemia. b) For individuals who have undergone, or for those who have been scheduled for, bariatric procedures such as Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy, or biliopancreatic diversion/duodenal switch. Former #2 deleted due to this change. References revised.
10/30/2024	01/15/2025; Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement Information unchanged. References revised.
11/01/2023	Document updated with literature review. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: added #4: For all situations, folate receptor autoantibody testing is not reimbursable. Other revisions made for clarity. References revised.
11/1/2022	New policy