

# Reimbursement Policy

**Policy Number:** RPLAB059

**Policy Title:** Diagnosis of Vaginitis

**Approval Date:** May 15, 2016

**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

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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

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1. For individuals with signs and symptoms of vaginitis, testing of pH, testing for the presence of amines, measurement of sialidase activity, saline wet mount, potassium hydroxide/KOH wet mount, and microscopic examination of vaginal fluids **may be reimbursable**.
2. For individuals with signs and symptoms of vaginitis, a multi-pathogen panel test using direct Probe DNA-based identification of *Gardnerella*, *Trichomonas*, and *Candida* (e.g., BD Affirm™ VP11) **may be reimbursable**.
3. For individuals with signs and symptoms of vaginitis, but with negative findings on wet-mount preparations and a normal pH test, vaginal cultures for *Candida* species for the diagnosis of vulvovaginal candidiasis **may be reimbursable**.
4. For individuals with complicated vulvovaginal candidiasis/VVC, nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) based identification of *Candida* to confirm clinical diagnosis and identify non-*albicans* *Candida* **may be reimbursable**.
5. For individuals with sign and symptoms of bacterial vaginosis/BV, nucleic acid amplification test/NAAT, specific to the diagnosis of BV (e.g., Aptima® BV, OneSwab® BV Panel PCR with Lactobacillus Profiling by qPCR; SureSwab® Advanced BV, TMA) and single or multitarget PCR testing for the diagnosis of BV **may be reimbursable**.
6. For individuals with signs and symptoms of vaginitis, NAAT panel testing (no more than one test every seven days; see **Note 1**) designed to detect more than one type of vaginitis (VVC, BV, and/or trichomoniasis; e.g., BD MAX™ Vaginal Panel, NuSwab® VG, Xpert® Xpress MVP) **may be reimbursable**.
7. For asymptomatic individuals, including asymptomatic pregnant individuals at an average or high risk for premature labor, screening for trichomoniasis and bacterial vaginosis **is not reimbursable**.
8. For all other situations not described above, nucleic acid testing (NAT) for *Candida* (e.g., quantitative NAAT testing, direct probe testing, conditions not addressed above) or *Gardnerella* (e.g., direct probe testing) **is not reimbursable**.

9. Testing for microorganisms involved in vaginal flora imbalance and/or infertility using molecular-based panel testing **is not reimbursable.**

10. All other tests for vaginitis (e.g., broad molecular panels designed to concurrently test for vaginitis and various other STIs) not addressed above **are not reimbursable.**

**NOTE 1:** Per CDC recommendation (13), the longest minimum treatment for an organism included on the allowed vaginitis panels is a seven day course of antibiotics to treat trichomoniasis. NAAT pane testing for all three types of vaginitis should not be repeated before a minimum treatment window has passed. When symptoms persist despite treatment, individual organism testing may be performed within this window.

## 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
81513	NFCT DS BV RNA VAG FLU ALG
81514	NFCT DS BV&VAGINITIS DNA ALG
81515	NFCT DS BV&VAGINITIS DNA ALG
82120	AMINES VAGINAL FLUID QUAL
83986	ASSAY PH BODY FLUID NOS
87070	CULTURE OTHR SPECIMN AEROBIC
87149	DNA/RNA DIRECT PROBE
87150	DNA/RNA AMPLIFIED PROBE
87210	SMEAR WET MOUNT SALINE/INK
87480	CANDIDA DNA DIR PROBE
87481	CANDIDA DNA AMP PROBE
87482	CANDIDA DNA QUANT
87510	GARDNER VAG DNA DIR PROBE
87511	GARDNER VAG DNA AMP PROBE
87512	GARDNER VAG DNA QUANT
87797	DETECT AGENT NOS DNA DIR
87798	DETECT AGENT NOS DNA AMP
87799	DETECT AGENT NOS DNA QUANT
87800	DETECT AGNT MULT DNA DIREC
87801	DETECT AGNT MULT DNA AMPLI
87905	SIALIDASE ENZYME ASSAY
0068U	CANDIDA SPECIES PNL AMP PRB
0330U	IADNA VAG PTHGN PANEL 27 ORG
0505U	NFCT DS VAG INFCTJ ID 32ORGS
0557U	NFCT DS BV DNA MRK VAG FLUID

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Q0111	Wet mounts/ w preparations
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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2026). Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II.

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## Policy History

Approval Date	Description
05/15/2026	09/04/2026; Document updated with literature review. The following changes were made: Direct probe testing to detect vaginitis is appropriate only when part of a multi-pathogen panel. All individual testing for Trichomonas is addressed on RPLAB051 Diagnostic Testing of Common Sexually Transmitted Infections. This results in changes to changes to #2, #4, and #8: #2: added “a multi-pathogen panel testing using”, as individual direct probe testing provides minimal information and use of direct probe testing should be restricted to the multi-pathogen panel test (e.g., BD Affirm VPIII) and should not be billed individually. #4: changed qualitative PCR to NAAT, as individual Candida testing should be amplified probe testing, not direct probe testing #8: changing NAAT to “nucleic acid testing (NAT)”, adding “direct probe testing, conditions not addressed above” to Candida and adding “or Gardnerella (e.g., direct probe testing). Removed code 87660. References revised.
09/26/2025	01/03/2026; Document updated with literature review. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: Removed statements #4, #5, #10. Added “qualitative” to define the correct type of NAAT testing to be used to screen for Candida infection to now #4; Now #6, added “no more than one test every seven days; see Note 1)”. Added new #8 “For all other situations not described above, NAAT testing for Candida (e.g., quantitative NAAT testing) is not reimbursable.” Added to #10 for clarity: “e.g., broad molecular panels designed to concurrently test for vaginitis and various other STIs). Added new Note 1. Added codes 0068U and 0557U; removed 87661, 87808. References revised.
05/08/2025	08/08/2025; Document updated with literature review. The following changes were made to Reimbursement Information: Added “measurement of sialidase activity” to #1, resulting in deletion of #4. Changed “hydrogen peroxide” to “potassium hydroxide” in #1. Other changes made for clarity. Added code 81515 and deleted code 0352U. References revised.
10/30/2024	01/15/2025; Added code 0505U. No other changes.
03/15/2024	03/15/2024: Document updated with literature review. The following change was made to Reimbursement information: Revised #9 from “is not reimbursable” to “may be reimbursable.” Now states: “NAAT panel testing designed to detect more than one type of vaginitis (VVC, BV, and/or

	trichomoniasis; e.g., BD MAX™ Vaginal Panel, NuSwab® VG, Xpert® Xpress MVP) may be reimbursable.” References revised; one added. Title changed from Diagnosis of Vaginitis Including Multi-target PCR Testing.
11/01/2023	11/01/2023: Document updated with literature review. Reimbursement information revised for clarity. Added specific NAAT testing language to #8 and #9. References revised; some added, others removed.
11/1/2022	11/01/2022: New policy