



Allergy Testing

Purpose

This policy is intended to ensure correct provider reimbursement and serves only as a general resource regarding Molina Healthcare's reimbursement policy for the services described in this policy. It is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation, nor is it intended to impact care decisions. This policy was developed using nationally accepted industry standards and coding principles. In a conflict, federal and state guidelines, as applicable, and the member's benefit plan document supersede the information in this policy. Also, to the extent of conflicts between this policy and the provider contract language, the Provider contract language will prevail. Coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of a State, the Federal government or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). References included were accurate at the time of policy approval. If there is a state exception, please refer to the state exception table listed below.

Policy Overview

Allergy testing is a medical procedure or set of tests used to identify specific allergens that trigger allergic reactions in individuals. These tests are conducted to determine what substances or allergens a person may be allergic to, helping healthcare professionals diagnose and manage allergies more effectively. There are several common methods of allergy testing:

- **Skin Prick Test:** This involves applying a tiny amount of allergen extract to the skin's surface and then pricking or scratching the skin to allow the allergen to enter. If a person is allergic to that substance, they will typically develop a localized allergic reaction at the test site.
- **Blood Test (Allergen-specific IgE Test):** A blood sample is taken to measure the levels of allergen-specific antibodies (IgE) in the bloodstream. Elevated levels of specific IgE antibodies can indicate an allergy to certain substances.
- **Patch Test:** Patch testing is typically used to diagnose contact dermatitis, a type of allergy that results from skin contact with certain substances. Small patches containing potential allergens are applied to the skin and left in place for a specific duration to see if an allergic reaction develops.
- **Intradermal Test:** Like the skin prick test, but the allergen extract is injected just beneath the skin's surface. This test is often used when skin prick tests yield inconclusive results.
- **Elimination Diet:** In cases of food allergies, an elimination diet may be recommended. This involves removing suspected allergenic foods from the diet and then gradually reintroducing them to identify which ones trigger allergic reactions.

Allergy testing is crucial for diagnosing allergies, as it helps individuals and healthcare providers pinpoint specific allergens that need to be avoided. Once allergies are identified, appropriate treatment and management strategies, such as allergen avoidance or allergy medications, can be prescribed to minimize allergic reactions and symptoms.

Reimbursement Guidelines

To validate the need for allergy testing, it's necessary for all claims to contain a legitimate diagnosis (DX). You should consult the provided CMS and/or your state's Medicaid guidelines for authorized diagnosis and CPT codes related to allergy testing.

Molina Healthcare reimbursement amounts are determined based on relevant fee schedules and the terms established in the provider agreement. It's essential to comply with the billing instructions specified by the state



Medicaid program and/or CMS. Neglecting to include the required indicators or documentation with your submitted charges could lead to possible delays, denials and/or recover of your payment.

Supplemental Information

Definitions

Term	Definition
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
DX	Diagnosis
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology

State Exceptions

State	Exception
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Documentation History

Type	Date	Action
Published		
Revised Date		

References

State/Agency	Document Name/Description	Link/Document
CMS	Billing and Coding: Allergy Testing	Article - Billing and Coding: Allergy Testing (A56558) (cms.gov)
CMS	Billing and Coding: Allergy Testing	Article - Billing and Coding: Allergy Testing (A57181) (cms.gov)
CMS	Billing and Coding: Allergy Testing	Article - Billing and Coding: Allergy Testing (A57473) (cms.gov)
CA	Allergy Testing and Desensitization	https://mcweb.apps.prd.cammis.medical.ca.gov/file/manual?fn=allergy.pdf
MI	Section 3.1	https://www.mdch.state.mi.us/dch-medicaid/manuals/MedicaidProviderManual.pdf
NY	New York State Medicaid Expansion of Allergy Testing	https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2016/2016-05.htm
SC	Allergy and Immunotherapy Pg. 113	https://provider.scdhhs.gov/internet/pdf/manuals/Physicians/Manual.pdf
TX	9.2.5.2 Allergy Testing	https://www.tmhp.com/sites/default/files/file-library/resources/provider-manuals/tmppm/pdf-



State/Agency	Document Name/Description	Link/Document
		chapters/2020/2020-06-june/2_Med_Specs_and_Phys_Srvs.pdf
WA	Allergen and clinical immunology Pg. 175 & 176	https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/billers-and-providers/Physician-related-serv-bg-20220101.pdf
Molina	Molina Clinical Policy	Clinical Policy G2031 Allergen Testing