Allergen Testing Policy, Professional and Facility

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan reimbursement policies uses Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.*

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms. Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design, and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy.

This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UnitedHealthcare Community Plan's reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare Community Plan enrollees.

Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors include, but are not limited to: federal &/or state regulatory requirements, the physician or other provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents, and/or other reimbursement, medical or drug policies.

Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Medicaid products.

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the UB-04 Form, the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (a/k/a CMS-1500) or their electronic equivalents or their successor forms. This policy applies to all products, all network and non-network providers, including, but not limited to, non-network authorized and percent of charge contract hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, physicians, and other qualified health care professionals.

Policy

Overview

This policy describes the reimbursement methodology for allergen testing.

Reimbursement Guidelines

NOTE: Procedure codes appearing in policy documents are included only as a general reference tool for each policy. They may not be all-inclusive.

In Vitro Serum IgE

UnitedHealthcare will not consider reimbursement for the following in vitro serum IgE testing procedure code(s) for individuals 20 years of age or older when billed for any condition other than those listed below.

Procedure Code(s)

82785					

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Condition(s)

a. For individuals with moderate to severe asthma.
b. For individuals with signs or symptoms of allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis.

Allergy Testing Limitation

UnitedHealthcare will consider reimbursement for the following specific IgE in vitro allergy testing procedure codes for up to twenty allergen specific antibodies per year for individuals 20 years of age or older.

Procedure Code(s)

86003	86008				

Antigen Leukocyte Antibody (ALCAT)

UnitedHealthcare will not consider reimbursement of the following antigen leukocyte antibody testing (ALCAT) procedure code(s).

Procedure Code(s)

83516					

Immunoglobulins

UnitedHealthcare will not consider reimbursement of the following procedure codes for basophil activation flow cytometry testing and in-vitro testing of IgG, IgA, IgM, and/or IgD when billed for signs or symptoms of allergies.

Procedure Code(s)

82784	82787	86001	88184	88185	

Bead-Based Epitope Assays

UnitedHealthcare will not consider reimbursement of the following procedure codes for in vitro allergen testing using bead-based epitope assays.

Procedure Code(s)

0165U	0178U				

Multi-Allergen Screening

UnitedHealthcare will not consider reimbursement for the following qualitative specific IgE multi-allergen screen procedure code(s) that do not identify a specific allergen.

Procedure Code(s)

86005					

State Exceptions	
Arizona	Arizona is exempt from this policy.

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Idaho	Idaho is exempt from this policy.
Indiana	Indiana is exempt from this policy.
Kansas	Kansas is exempt from this policy.
Kentucky	Kentucky is exempt from this policy.
Maryland	Maryland is exempt from this policy.
Massachusetts	Massachusetts is exempt from this policy.
Missouri	Missouri is exempt from this policy.
Nebraska	Nebraska is exempt from this policy.
New Jersey	New Jersey is exempt from this policy.
New Mexico	New Mexico is exempt from this policy.
North Carolina	North Carolina is exempt from this policy.
Ohio	Ohio is exempt from this policy.
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania is exempt from this policy
Rhode Island	Rhode Island is exempt from this policy.
Tennessee	Tennessee is exempt from this policy.
Texas	Texas is exempt from this policy.
Virginia	Virginia is exempt from this policy.
Washington DC	Washington DC is exempt from this policy.
Washington	Washington is exempt from this policy.
Wisconsin	Wisconsin is exempt from this policy.

Definitions

Twenty allergen-specific antibodies per year	Twenty units per 365 calendar days from initial date of service.

Questions and Answers

1	**Q:** Is the frequency limitation based on individual provider per member? **A:** Frequency limitation is applicable regardless of billing and/or rendering provider (any individual provider OR any facility) for each individual member for the same date of service.
2	**Q:** Does the frequency limitation of in vitro specific IgE allergy testing apply to each procedure code individually or do all count toward the same limit? **A:** The frequency limitation applies to each procedure code individually.

Resources

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Individual state Medicaid regulations, manuals & fee schedules

American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)* and associated publications and services

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Relative Value Files

History	
10/1/2026	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.
4/28/2026	Policy approved by the Reimbursement Policy Oversight Committee
7/1/2026	Policy published

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