Lyme Disease 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 Lyme disease testing when billed with designated conditions.

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.

Reimbursable Serology Testing

UnitedHealthcare will consider reimbursement of the following serologic testing (2-tier testing strategy using a sensitive enzyme immunoassay (EIA) or immunofluorescence assay, followed by a western immunoblot assay or FDA cleared second EIA assay) procedure codes when billed for any of the conditions listed below:

Procedure Code(s)

86617	86618	0041U	0042U		

Condition(s)

a. Fever, malaise, chills, fatigue, myalgia
b. Cough, shortness of breath
c. Acute myocarditis/pericarditis, cardiomyopathy
d. Meningitis, encephalitis, or myelitis
e. Painful radiculoneuritis
f. Mononeuropathy multiplex, ataxia
g. Acute cranial neuropathy
h. Urticaria

Non-Reimbursable Serology Testing

UnitedHealthcare will not consider reimbursement of the following serologic testing procedure codes when billed for individuals with any of the conditions listed below as the primary condition:

Procedure Code(s)

86617	86618				

Condition(s)

a. For individuals with an erythema migrans (EM) rash
b. To screen asymptomatic patients
c. For individuals with fatigue.
d. For individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
e. For individuals with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.
f. For individuals with Parkinson's disease.
g. For individuals with dementia or cognitive decline, or new-onset seizures.
h. For individuals with Unspecified mood [affective] disorder.

Nucleic Acid Identification Techniques (NAAT)

UnitedHealthcare will not consider reimbursement for the detection of Borrelia burgdorferi by nucleic acid identification techniques (direct or amplified probe).

Procedure Code(s)

87475	87476				

State Exceptions	
Arizona	Arizona is exempt from this policy.
Idaho	Idaho is exempt from this policy.
Indiana	Indiana 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.
New Jersey	New Jersey is exempt from this policy.

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New York	The state of New York for CPT codes 88617, 88618, 87475, and HCPCS codes 0041U and 0042U can be denied, as they are not on the fee schedule. The State of New York allows 87476.
Ohio	Ohio is exempt from this policy.
Texas	Texas is exempt from this policy.
Washington	Washington is exempt from this policy.
Washington DC	Washington DC is exempt from this policy.

Resources
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	
10/4/2026	Policy Version Change State Exceptions Section: Nebraska removed
8/16/2026	Policy Version Change State Exceptions Section: Tennessee removed
7/19/2026	Policy Version Change State Exceptions Section: Kansas removed
5/1/2026	Policy Version Change State Exceptions Section: Colorado and Rhode Island removed. New York updated
2/1/2026	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Community & State
11/20/2025	Policy Version Change State Exceptions Section: Washington DC updated
11/8/2025	Policy published
8/26/2025	Policy approved by the Reimbursement Policy Oversight Committee

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