Diagnostic Testing of Common Sexually Transmitted Infections

CareSource

Policy number: AHS-G2157 | Effective Date: February 1, 2025

CPT Codes 86592, 86593, 86631, 86632, 86780, 87205, 87270, 87320, 87490, 87491, 87492, 87590, 87591, 87592,87623, 87624, 87661, 87798

Indications and/or Limitations of Coverage

Testing & Frequency	Coverage Determination
Syphilis antibody testing (treponemal + nontreponemal Ig) – asymptomatic high-risk individuals (annual), symptomatic patients, every 3 months for HIV-positive MSM, pre-transplant, or test of cure (TOC) (See notes 1, 2 and 3).	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Syphilis antibody testing – asymptomatic non-high-risk individuals (only for newborn screening, sexual-assault follow-up, <18 years annually) (see notes 1 and 2).	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Syphilis NAAT or PCR testing.	❌ Does Not Meet Coverage Criteria
Chlamydia NAAT – annual screening for high-risk individuals or symptomatic patients (including LGV diagnosis or TOC ≥ 3 months after infection) (see notes 1 and 4 and 5).	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Chlamydia screening – asymptomatic non-high-risk individuals (only for newborn screening, sexual-assault follow-up, <18 years annually) (see notes 1 and 4).	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Chlamydia serology or LGV serology.	❌ Does Not Meet Coverage Criteria
Gonorrhea NAAT – annual high-risk screening, symptomatic testing, or TOC post-treatment (See notes 1, 4 and 6).	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Gonorrhea culture – antimicrobial susceptibility testing when non-responsive to therapy.	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Gonorrhea screening – asymptomatic non-high-risk individuals (only for newborn, sexual-assault follow-up, <18 years annually) (See notes 1 and 4)	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Trichomonas vaginalis NAAT/PCR – symptomatic or high-risk individuals (concurrent STI, high-prevalence settings, sex trade work) (see note 7)	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Trichomonas enzyme immunoassay.	❌ Does Not Meet Coverage Criteria
Mycoplasma genitalium NAAT – symptomatic patients only (see note 8).	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Mycoplasma genitalium NAAT – asymptomatic screening (see note 8).	❌ Does Not Meet Coverage Criteria
Multitarget PCR for C. trachomatis, N. gonorrhoeae, T. vaginalis, M. genitalium when an individual meets any of the conditions described above.	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
HSV-1/HSV-2 NAAT – for active genital ulcers or mucocutaneous lesions.	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
HSV immunoassay (non-type-specific).	❌ Does Not Meet Coverage Criteria
HSV-2 type-specific gG2 serology – recurrent/atypical lesions with negative PCR or culture; partner with genital herpes.	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
HSV screening (asymptomatic).	❌ Does Not Meet Coverage Criteria
High-risk HPV testing (NAAT or IHC p16) – for diagnosis or assessment of cancer or therapy.	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
HPV testing – for asymptomatic screening or low-risk types (including HPV-16/18 status panels, warts, general STD screen).	❌ Does Not Meet Coverage Criteria
HIV PrEP initiation – baseline serum creatinine/eGFR, HIV Ab screen, HBV/HCV screen, pregnancy test.	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
HIV PrEP maintenance – HIV test q 3 months; renal function q 6 months; NAAT for GC/CT (q 3–6 months by exposure site); syphilis q 3 months; pregnancy q 3 months.	✅ Meets Coverage Criteria
Nucleic acid testing for antimicrobial susceptibility or quantification (C. trachomatis, N. gonorrhoeae, HSV, HPV, T. pallidum).	❌ Does Not Meet Coverage Criteria

See all Notes on page 2

Diagnostic Testing of Common Sexually Transmitted Infections

CareSource

Policy number: AHS-G2157 | Effective Date: February 1, 2025

Note 1: For sexually active children and adolescents under the age of 18, risk factors for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and/or syphilis infection as defined by the CDC include: initiating sex early in adolescence; living in detention facilities; receiving services at STD clinics; being involved in commercial sex exploitation or exchanging sex for drugs, money, food, or housing; having multiple sex partners, having sequential sex partnerships of limited duration or concurrent partnerships; failing to use barrier protection consistently and correctly; having lower socioeconomic status, and facing numerous obstacles to accessing healthcare. At-risk individuals also include: males who have sex with males (YMSM); transgender youths; youths with disabilities, substance abuse, or mental health disorders (CDC, 2021c).

Note 2: High-risk for Syphilis (Cantor et al., 2016; CDC, 2023a): • Sexually active men who have sex with men (MSM) • Sexually active HIV-positive status • Having a sexual partner recently diagnosed with a STI • Exchanging sex for money or drugs • Individuals in adult correctional facilities • During pregnancy when the following risk factors are present: o Sexually active HIV-positive status o Sexually active with multiple partners o Sexually active in conjunction with drug use or transactional sex o Late entry to prenatal care (i.e., first visit during the second trimester or later) or no prenatal care o Methamphetamine or heroin use o Incarceration of the woman or her partner o Unstable housing or homelessness

Note 3: Signs and Symptoms of a Syphilis Infection (CDC, 2018, 2023a) • Chancre • Skin rash and/or mucous membrane lesions in mouth, vagina, anus, hands, and feet • Condyloma lata • Secondary symptomology can include fever, fatigue, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, weight loss, muscle aches, headache, and hair loss • Signs and symptoms of neurosyphilis can include severe headache, trouble with muscle movements, muscle weakness or paralysis (not being able to move certain parts of the body), numbness, and changes in mental status (trouble focusing, confusion, personality change) and/or dementia (problems with memory, thinking, and/or making decisions). • Signs and symptoms of ocular syphilis can include eye pain or redness, floating spots in the field of vision (“floaters”), sensitivity to light, and changes in vision (blurry vision or even blindness). • Signs and symptoms of otosyphilis may include hearing loss, ringing, buzzing, roaring, or hissing in the ears (“tinnitus”), balance difficulties, and dizziness or vertigo. G2157 Diagnostic Testing of Common Sexually Transmitted Infections Page 7 of 53 • Signs and symptoms of late/tertiary syphilis include inflammatory lesions of the cardiovascular system (e.g., aortitis, coronary vessel disease), skin (e.g., gummatous lesions), and bone (e.g., osteitis).

Note 4: High-risk for Chlamydia and/or Gonorrhea (CDC, 2021b, 2024a, 2024d; LeFevre, 2014): • Sexually active men who have sex with men (MSM) • Sexually active HIV-positive status • Sexually active women under the age of 25 • Women age 25 or over who have multiple sexual partners • Having a sexual partner recently diagnosed with an STI • Previous or concurrent STI • Exchanging sex for money or drugs

Note 5: Signs and Symptoms of a Chlamydia Infection (CDC, 2021b, 2024a): • Genital symptoms, including “discharge, burning during urination, unusual sores, or rash” • Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), including “symptoms of abdominal and/or pelvic pain, along with signs of cervical motion tenderness, and uterine or adnexal tenderness on examination” • Urethritis • Pyuria • Dysuria • Increase in frequency in urination • Epididymitis (with or without symptomatic urethritis) in men • Proctitis • Sexually acquired chlamydial conjunctivitis

Note 6: Signs and Symptoms of Gonorrhea (CDC, 2024d): • Dysuria • Urethral infection • Urethral or vaginal discharge • Epididymitis (Testicular or scrotal pain) • Rectal infection symptoms include anal itching, discharge, rectal bleeding, and painful bowel movements

Note 7: Signs and Symptoms of Trichomoniasis (CDC, 2023b): • Vaginal or penile discharge • Itching, burning sensation, or soreness of the genitalia • Discomfort or burning sensation during/after urination and/or ejaculation • Urethritis • Epididymitis • Prostatitis

Note 8: Signs and Symptoms of M. genitalium Infection (CDC, 2021a): • When present, typical symptoms of Mgen-urethritis in men include dysuria, urethral pruritus, and purulent or mucopurulent urethral discharge • When present, typical symptoms of Mgen cervicitis in women include vaginal discharge, vaginal itching, dysuria, and pelvic discomfort • When present, typical symptoms of PID due to Mgen include mild to severe pelvic pain, abdominal pain, abnormal vaginal discharge, and/or bleeding

To view the complete policy, please refer to the CareSource website referenced below:
https://www.avalonhcs.com/policypublishing/CareSource/OHMarketplace/G2157%20v6%20Diagnostic%20Testing%20of%20Common%20Sexually%20Transmitted%20Infections%20efd;%2002-01-2025.pdf

Last Updated 12/2/2025