DRUG TESTING IN PAIN MANAGEMENT AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER(S) TREATMENT

Non-Discrimination Statement and Multi-Language Interpreter Services information are located at the end of this document.

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member’s specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Medical Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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Description:

Urine drug screening is one strategy for monitoring individuals being prescribed opioids in the pain management or substance abuse treatment settings. Other biologic specimens (e.g., oral fluids, hair) have been investigated as testing strategies for monitoring individuals being prescribed opioids. Individuals in these settings are often assessed before treatment and monitored while they are receiving treatment. This guideline only addresses the testing of urine, oral fluids or hair in the treatment of pain or substance abuse disorder(s).

Various strategies are available to monitor individuals in pain management and substance abuse treatment settings, and multicomponent interventions are often used. Many settings require individuals to sign a contract before they are given a prescription for opioids. The contracts generally involve obtaining an individual’s agreement on behaviors they will or will not engage in during the treatment period.

Risk-assessment screening instruments, such as the Screener and Opioid Assessment for Patients with Pain-Revisited (SOAPP-R), and the Opioid Risk Tool (ORT), can aid in the assessment of an individual’s risk for inappropriate drug use. In addition, the presence of “aberrant behaviors” can be used as a marker for individuals who are at high risk for deviating from treatment protocols. Aberrant behaviors include multiple lost prescriptions, obtaining prescriptions from other practitioners, and displaying evidence of acute intoxication during office visits.

Definitions:

Presumptive (e.g., Immunoassay) Drug Screen:
A test used to detect the presence of a drug in the body that is generally reported as either positive or negative.

Definitive (e.g., Confirmatory) Drug Screen:
A test used to confirm the presence of a specific drug identified by a screening test and can identify drugs that cannot be isolated by currently available immunoassays.
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Criteria:

For urine drug testing for drug-drug interaction and urine specimen DNA authentication testing, see BCBSAZ Medical Coverage Guideline #01028, “Urine Drug Testing for Drug-Drug Interaction and Urine Specimen DNA Authentication Testing”.

Presumptive (e.g., Immunoassay) Drug Screen:

- In the treatment of pain or substance abuse disorder(s), presumptive (e.g., immunoassay) urine drug testing is considered medically necessary with documentation of ALL of the following:
  1. Baseline screening before initiating treatment or at the time treatment is initiated, with evidence of ALL of the following:
     - An adequate clinical assessment of the individual’s history and risk of substance abuse
     - Prescribing clinician has knowledge of test interpretation
  2. An adequate plan of care is in place related to pain management and/or substance abuse treatment
  3. Evidence the prescriber has checked their state’s controlled substance abuse database at the beginning of each new course of treatment and at least quarterly while continuing to prescribe that therapy

- In the treatment of pain or substance abuse disorder(s), in-office or point of care presumptive (e.g., immunoassay) urine drug testing is considered medically necessary with documentation of ANY of the following:
  1. Baseline screening before initiating treatment or at the time treatment is initiated (e.g., induction phase), one time per program entry with evidence of ALL of the following:
     - An adequate clinical assessment of the individual’s history and risk of substance abuse
     - Prescribing clinician has knowledge of test interpretation
  2. An adequate plan of care is in place related to pain management and/or substance abuse treatment
  3. Evidence the prescriber has checked their state’s controlled substance abuse database at the beginning of each new course of treatment and at least quarterly while continuing to prescribe that therapy
  4. Targeted weekly presumptive screening for a maximum of 4 weeks for an individual in the stabilization phase
  5. Target presumptive screening once every 1 to 3 months for an individual in the maintenance phase
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Criteria: (cont.)

Definitive (e.g., Confirmatory) Drug Screen:

- In the treatment of pain or substance abuse disorder(s), in-office or point of care, definitive (e.g., confirmatory) urine drug testing is considered **medically necessary** with documentation of **ALL** of the following:

  1. Individual meets above criteria for presumptive urine drug testing
  2. Immunoassays for the relevant drug(s) are not commercially available
  3. Definitive drug levels are required for clinical decision making with **ANY** of the following:

     - An unexpected positive test inadequately explained by the individual’s medical history, clinical presentation or individual’s own statement
     - An unexpected negative test inconsistent from the previously performed test
     - A need for definitive levels to compare with established benchmarks for clinical decision making

- If above criteria not met, urine drug testing in the treatment of pain or substance abuse disorder(s), in-office or point of care is considered **not medically necessary**. This includes, **but is not limited to**, routine presumptive or definitive urine drug testing (e.g., testing at every visit, without consideration for specific patient risk factors or without consideration for whether definitive testing is required for clinical decision making).

Other Drug Screen Testing:

- In the treatment of pain or substance abuse disorder(s), hair testing and oral fluid drug testing is considered **experimental or investigational** based upon:

  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives.
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Resources:

Literature reviewed 09/06/17. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.

The BCBS Association Medical Policy Reference Manual (MPRM) policy is included in our guideline review. References cited in the MPRM policy are not duplicated on this guideline.


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Non-Discrimination Statement:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. BCBSAZ provides appropriate free aids and services, such as qualified interpreters and written information in other formats, to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. BCBSAZ also provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, call (602) 864-4884 for Spanish and (877) 475-4799 for all other languages and other aids and services.

If you believe that BCBSAZ has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance with: BCBSAZ’s Civil Rights Coordinator, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, P.O. Box 13466, Phoenix, AZ 85002-3466, (602) 864-2288, TTY/TDD (602) 864-4823, crc@azblue.com. You can file a grievance in person or by mail or email. If you need help filing a grievance BCBSAZ’s Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1–800–368–1019, 800–537–7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html

Multi-Language Interpreter Services:

Spanish: Si usted, o alguien a quien usted está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 602-864-4884.

Navajo: Díí kwe’é atah níilingualíí Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haadá yít’éego bíná’ídiiłkidgo éí doołdago Háída bijá aniłyeedígíí t’áadoó le’é yina’Idííłkidgo beełhaz’áánii hółpí díí t’áá hazaadd’ehjí háká a’doołwolgo bee híz’á doo biqáh illínígóó. Ata’ halné’églíi kojí bich’íjí’ hodiíilín 877-475-4799.

Chinese: 如果您，或是您正在协助的对象，有关于插入项目的名称 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona 方面的问题，您有权利免费以您的母语得到帮助和讯息。洽询一位翻译员，请拨电话 在此插入数字 877-475-4799。

Vietnamese: Nếu quý vị, hay người mà quý vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona quý vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thể thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thống dịch viên, xin gọi 877-475-4799.

Arabic: إن كان لديك أو أدى شخص تساؤلة أسئلة بخصوص Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona ضرورية بلغتك من دون أية تكلفة. للتحدث مع مترجم اتصل ب 877-475-4799.
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Multi-Language Interpreter Services: (cont.)

Tagalog: Kung ikaw, o ang iyong tinutulungan, ay maa Mason karanasan tungkol sa Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, maa karapatan ka na makakuha ng tulong at impormasyon sa iyong wika ng walang gastos. Upang makausap ang isang tagasalin, tumawag sa 877-475-4799.

Korean: 만약귀하 또는 귀하가 돕고 있는 어떤 사람이 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona에 관해서 질문이 있다면 귀하는 그러한 도움과 정보를 귀하의 언어로 비용 부담없이 얻을 수 있는 권리가 있습니다. 그렇게 통역사와 얘기하기 위해서는 877-475-4799 로 전화하십시오.

French: Si vous, ou quelqu’un que vous êtes en train d’aider, a des questions à propos de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, vous avez le droit d’obtenir de l’aide et l’information dans votre langue à aucun coût. Pour parler à un interprète, appelez 877-475-4799.

German: Falls Sie oder jemand, dem Sie helfen, Fragen zum Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haben, haben Sie das Recht, kostenlose Hilfe und Informationen in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Um mit einem Diametscher zu sprechen, rufen Sie bitte die Nummer 877-475-4799 an.

Russian: Если у вас или лица, которому вы помогаете, имеются вопросы по поводу Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, то вы имеете право на бесплатное получение помощи и информации на вашем языке. Для разговора с переводчиком позвоните по телефону 877-475-4799.

Japanese: ご本人様、またはお客様の身の回りの方でも、Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizonaについてご質問がございましたら、ご希望の言語でサポートを受けたり、情報を入手したりすることができます。料金はかかりません。通訳とお話される場合、877-475-4799 までお電話ください。

Farsi: اگر شما یا کسی که شما به آن کمک می‌کنید، سوال در مورد اطلاعات به زبان خود را به طور رایگان دریافت کنند 877-475-4799 نشان دهنده خدمات نمی‌باشد.

Assyrian: نخسته، ما في خلك واسطان، ما في خلك واسطان، Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona ما في خلك واسطان، ما في خلك واسطان، ما في خلك واسطان.

Serbo-Croatian: Ukoiko Vi ili neko kome Vi pomažete ima pitanje o Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, imate pravo da besplatno dobijete pomoć i informacije na Vašem jeziku. Da biste razgovarali sa pravodocem, nazovite 877-475-4799.

Thai: คุณสามารถโทรสอบถามข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมเกี่ยวกับ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona ขณะท่านจะได้รับความช่วยเหลือและข้อมูลภาษาไทยของคนโดยไม่มีค่าใช้จ่าย ที่ 877-475-4799.