

Medical policy updates, effective February 18, 2019

We will implement a new medical coverage policy, **Diagnostic Microbe Testing for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) (0530)**, to review tests for medical necessity. This policy is effective for dates of service beginning February 18, 2019.

Please note that this policy does not affect STD testing that is covered as a preventive benefit when billed with a wellness diagnosis. Additionally, medical necessity review is not required when STD testing is for patients ages two and under, or when billed with a pregnancy diagnosis.

We will expand the list in our National Correct Coding Initiatives (NCCI) for Facilities Reimbursement Policy (R09) to include industry-standard column one and column two procedure-to-procedure (PTP) codes where at least one of the codes is for an evaluation and management (E&M) visit in an emergency room when billed with another service. We will deny either the E&M or the other service as not separately reimbursable. This update affects claims from outpatient facilities processed on or after February 18, 2019.