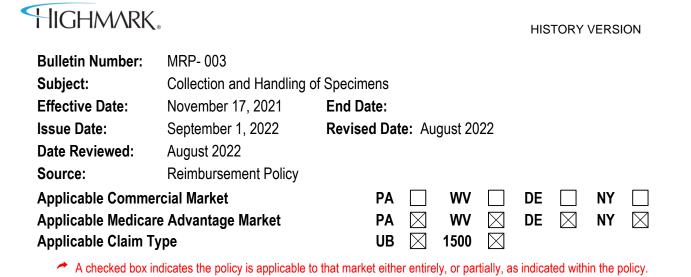
Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is based on how the provider is contracted with the Plan.

PURPOSE:

Specimen collection for laboratory testing includes venipuncture, skin puncture, and catherization.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

Separate charges made by physicians, independent laboratories, or hospital laboratories for drawing or collecting specimens should be allowed whether the specimens are referred to physicians or other laboratories for testing.

Payment should not be made for the following:

• Professionals who have not extracted the specimen from the patient.

This Policy supersedes direction provided in Bulletins prior to the effective date of this policy.

- Multiple collections fees for the same patient encounter done by venipuncture and/or catherization.
- Routine handling charges where a specimen is referred by one laboratory to another.
- Blood samples where the cost of collecting the specimen is minimal such as a routine capillary puncture for clotting or bleeding time.

Note: Capillary puncture is included in the payment for the evaluation and management service or the performed laboratory test.

When a series of specimens are required to complete a single test, the series is treated as a single encounter.

A specimen collection fee and travel allowance are covered for a laboratory technician to draw a specimen from either a nursing home patient or homebound patient.

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | | |
|-------|--|--|--|
| P9603 | TRAVEL ALLOWANCE ONE WAY IN CONNECTION WITH MEDICALLY NECESSARY LABORATORY SPECIMEN COLLECTION DRAWN FROM HOME BOUND OR NURSING HOME BOUND PATIENT; PRORATED MILES ACTUALLY TRAVELED | | |
| P9604 | TRAVEL ALLOWANCE ONE WAY IN CONNECTION WITH MEDICALLY NECESSARY LABORATORY SPECIMEN COLLECTION DRAWN FROM HOME BOUND OR NURSING HOME BOUND PATIENT; PRORATED TRIP CHARGE | | |
| P9612 | CATHETERIZATION FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIMEN, SINGLE PATIENT, ALL PLACES OF SERVICE | | |
| P9615 | CATHETERIZATION FOR COLLECTION OF (URINE) SPECIMEN(S),(MULTIPLE) PATIENTS | | |
| S9529 | ROUTINE VENIPUNCTURE FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIMEN(S), SINGLE HOME BOUND, NURSING HOME, OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY PATIENT | | |
| 36415 | COLLECTION OF VENOUS BLOOD BY VENIPUNCTURE | | |

Note: Reimbursement of a travel allowance is made only if a specimen collection fee is also payable.

Travel Allowances will not be reimbursed under the following circumstances:

- Lab personnel performs messenger service and picks up specimens drawn by other personnel.
- Travel allowance may not be reimbursed to a physician unless the trip to the home or nursing home was solely for the purpose of drawing a specimen.

A member will be considered homebound if he/she has a condition due to an illness or injury which restricts their ability to leave their place of residence except with the aid of supportive devices (e.g., crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and walkers), special transportation or the assistance of another person, or if they have a condition which medically contraindicates them leaving home. The aged person who does not often travel from their home because of feebleness or insecurity brought on by advanced age is not considered homebound.

RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

RP-045 Purchased Services

REFERENCES:

- CMS Internet Online Manual Pub. 100-04 Chapter 16, Sections 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80.4, 90, 100, 110
- CMS Internet Online Manual Pub. 100-04 Chapter 23, Section 40

- CMS Internet online Manual Pub. 100-02 Chapter 7, Section 30
- Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, Section 1862(a)(7), (a)(1)(A)
- Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, Section 1833(e)

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

| 11 / 2021 | Implementation |
|-----------|---|
| 3 / 2022 | Updated policy header |
| 9 / 2022 | Added Delaware Med Advantage applicable to the policy direction |

Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin



Bulletin Number: MRP-003 Subject: Collection and Handling of Specimens **Effective Date:** November 17, 2021 **End Date:** Issue Date: March 14, 2022 Revised Date: March, 2022 Date Reviewed: March, 2022 Source: Reimbursement Policy **Applicable Commercial Market** PA DE Applicable Medicare Advantage Market PA UB 1500 Applicable Claim Type A checked box indicates the policy is applicable to that market either entirely or partially, as indicated within the policy.

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| CODE | DESCRIPTION |
|-------|--|
| P9603 | TRAVEL ALLOWANCE ONE WAY IN CONNECTION WITH MEDICALLY |
| | NECESSARY LABORATORY SPECIMEN COLLECTION DRAWN FROM HOME |
| | BOUND OR NURSING HOME BOUND PATIENT; PRORATED MILES ACTUALLY |
| | TRAVELED |
| P9604 | TRAVEL ALLOWANCE ONE WAY IN CONNECTION WITH MEDICALLY |
| | NECESSARY LABORATORY SPECIMEN COLLECTION DRAWN FROM HOME |
| | BOUND OR NURSING HOME BOUND PATIENT; PRORATED TRIP CHARGE |
| P9612 | CATHETERIZATION FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIMEN, SINGLE PATIENT, ALL |
| | PLACES OF SERVICE |
| P9615 | CATHETERIZATION FOR COLLECTION OF (URINE) SPECIMEN(S),(MULTIPLE) |
| | PATIENTS |
| S9529 | ROUTINE VENIPUNCTURE FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIMEN(S), SINGLE HOME |
| | BOUND, NURSING HOME, OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY PATIENT |
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REFERENCES:

CMS Internet Online Manual Pub. 100-04 Chapter 16, Sections 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80.4, 90, 100, 110 https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c16.pdf
CMS Internet Online Manual Pub. 100-04 Chapter 23, Section 40.

https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c23.pdf CMS Internet online Manual Pub. 100-02 Chapter 7, Section 30.

https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c07.pdf

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, Section 1862(a)(7), (a)(1)(A)

https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1862.htm

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, Section 1833(e)

https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY INFORMATION:

| November / 2021 | Implementation | T | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----|---|--|
| March / 2022 | Changed Policy Header | // | \ | |