

Lab Panel Testing

Policy ID:	HWC-PA-RP-2022
Approved By:	Highmark Wholecare – Market Leadership
Provider Notice Date:	07/27/2026
Original Effective Date:	10/01/2026
Annual Approval Date:	10/01/2026
Last Revision Date:	06/2026
Products:	Medicaid
Application:	All participating hospitals and providers
Page Number(s):	1 of 3

Disclaimer

Highmark Wholecare medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides information regarding the coverage of, as determined by applicable federal and/or state legislation.

This policy is designed to address medical necessity guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness or condition. Each person's unique clinical circumstances warrant individual consideration, based upon review of applicable medical records.

The qualifications of the policy will meet the standards of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DHS) and all applicable state and federal regulations.

Policy Purpose

This policy addresses the circumstances surrounding the appropriate reimbursement of tests that are billed individually by the same provider on the same date of service.

DEFINITIONS

Highmark Wholecare – Managed care organization serving vulnerable populations that have complex needs and qualify for Medicaid. Highmark Wholecare members include individuals and families with low income, expecting mothers, children, and people with disabilities. Members pay nothing to very little for their health coverage. Highmark Wholecare currently services Pennsylvania Medicaid: PA HealthChoices.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)- an infection that can be passed from one person to another through sexual contact.

Policy Position

Prior Authorization may be required. Please validate codes on the Prior Authorization Lookup Tool <https://providers.highmark.com/wholecare/provider-resources/prior-authorization-code-lookup>

When two or more single STI testing codes are billed separately by the same provider on the same date of service, the codes will be bundled together under comprehensive code 87801 and reimbursed at the comprehensive code rate. Reimbursement will be made based on a single unit of 87801, regardless of the number of units billed for each single testing code.

Covered Procedure Codes

CPT code	Description
86592	Syphilis test, non-treponemal antibody; qualitative (eg, VDRL, RPR, ART)
86593	Syphilis test, non-treponemal antibody; quantitative
87490	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Chlamydia trachomatis, direct probe technique
87491	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); chlamydia trachomatis, amplified probe technique
87492	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Chlamydia trachomatis, quantification
87536	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); HIV-1, quantification, includes reverse transcription when performed
87591	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); neisseria gonorrhoeae, amplified probe technique
87661	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); trichomonas vaginalis, amplified probe technique
87808	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical (ie, visual) observation; Trichomonas vaginalis

Covered Comprehensive Code

CPT code	Description
87801	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), multiple organisms; amplified probe(s) technique

Post-payment Audit Statement

The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is

subject to audit by Highmark Wholecare at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.

Place of Service: Inpatient/Outpatient

REIMBURSEMENT

Participating facilities will be reimbursed per their Highmark Wholecare contract.

References

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.

- o <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R2997CP.pdf>
- o

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) publications.

