

ISSUE DATE November 2, 2023	EFFECTIVE DATE December 1, 2023	NUMBER 24-23-23, 28-23-03
SUBJECT Addition of a Procedure Code for Sexually Transmitted Infection Test Kits		BY  Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISE to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISE-Enrollment.aspx>.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to advise providers that the Department of Human Services (Department) will provide coverage for sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing kits for at-home specimen collection, effective with dates of service on and after December 1, 2023.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all pharmacies and laboratories enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program. Providers rendering services to MA beneficiaries in the managed care delivery system should contact the appropriate managed care organization with any coding or billing questions.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health encourages STI testing, sometimes referred to as sexually transmitted disease testing, as the standard of care for all sexually active individuals. STI testing is currently available for MA beneficiaries in the in-person setting, including at a laboratory, clinic or provider's office. The Department received requests to cover at-home testing to increase access to STI testing.

The Department is expanding testing options and will cover at-home test kits purchased at the pharmacy or mailed to the beneficiary's mailing address, when prescribed by an enrolled

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Fee-for-service provider service center: 1-800-537-8862

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx>

provider. Specimen collection should be completed as indicated in the instructions with the testing kit and then mailed to the laboratory for processing.

PROCEDURE:

When the provider determines the STI testing kit is medically necessary, the ordering provider will send the prescription for the STI testing kits to the pharmacy or laboratory for the beneficiary to receive and complete the at-home specimen collection. The STI test kit must be cleared or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) specifically for at-home specimen collection. The STI test kit will be returned through the mail to the laboratory for processing, with the pre-paid postage label included in the testing kit. The MA fee includes the cost of the test kit, the cost of shipping the specimen and the cost of the laboratory for processing.

The Department is adding procedure code A9999 with U3 (pricing), U4 (pricing) and U5 (pricing) modifiers for provider type 24 (Pharmacy), as indicated below, for the coverage of at-home specimen collection STI test kits that are picked up at the pharmacy by MA beneficiaries and returned by the MA beneficiary through the mail to the laboratory for processing.

Procedure Code	National Code Description	Modifier	MA Fee
A9999	Miscellaneous DME supply or accessory, not otherwise specified	U3 (To be used for Sexually Transmitted Infection Test Kit, up to 3 panels, includes return shipping to laboratory)	\$66.00
A9999	Miscellaneous DME supply or accessory, not otherwise specified	U4 (To be used for Sexually Transmitted Infection Test Kit, up to 5 panels, includes return shipping to laboratory)	\$164.75
A9999	Miscellaneous DME supply or accessory, not otherwise specified	U5 (To be used for Sexually Transmitted Infection Test Kit, 6 or more panels, includes return shipping to laboratory)	\$169.00

The Department is adding procedure code A9999 with U6 (pricing), U7 (pricing) and U8 (pricing) modifiers for provider type 28 (Laboratory), as indicated below, for the coverage of at-home specimen collection STI test kits that are mailed by the laboratory to MA beneficiaries and returned by the MA beneficiary through the mail to the laboratory for processing.

Procedure Code	National Code Description	Modifier	MA Fee
A9999	Miscellaneous DME supply or accessory, not otherwise specified	U6 (To be used for Sexually Transmitted Infection Test Kit, up to 3 panels, includes	\$86.00

		shipping both to the home of the beneficiary and return to laboratory)	
A9999	Miscellaneous DME supply or accessory, not otherwise specified	U7 (To be used for Sexually Transmitted Infection Test Kit, up to 5 panels, includes shipping both to the home of the beneficiary and return to laboratory)	\$184.75
A9999	Miscellaneous DME supply or accessory, not otherwise specified	U8 (To be used for Sexually Transmitted Infection Test Kit, 6 or more panels, includes shipping both to the home of the beneficiary and return to laboratory)	\$189.00

The Department updated the MA Program Fee Schedule to reflect the addition of this procedure code and modifiers. Providers may access the online version of the fee schedule on the Department's website at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/MA-Fee-Schedule.aspx>.

RESOURCES:

Pennsylvania Department of Health's Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/STD/Pages/STD.aspx>.

FDA Approved Over the Counter Tests
<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfIVD/Search.cfm>.