



Payment Policy

Subject: Blood Specimen Collection Fee [Venipuncture]

Policy

CareSource will not reimburse providers for the collection of blood samples when the provider also performs a blood laboratory service because the collection of the sample is an integral part of the lab service.

Definitions

“Encounters” are face-to-face contacts between a patient and a health provider for medically necessary services and includes the recipient’s visit to the center, including all services and supplies incidental to a practitioner’s services, if the services or supplies are of a type commonly furnished in a practitioner’s office, commonly furnished either without charge or included in the FQHC’s claim, and furnished as an incidental, although integral part of provider services. *(CareSource internal definition.)*

“Service” is a clinical diagnostic laboratory test. *(CareSource internal definition.)*

Provider Reimbursement Guidelines

Specimen collection fee

CareSource will reimburse for a specimen collection fee only when the provider drawing the venous sample is not the same provider or provider affiliate that is testing the specimen.

When submitting claims for laboratory services [88002-85999 or 87800-87906] a provider may use the following specimen collection CPT codes; however CareSource will not reimburse the provider for these specimen collection fees as they are considered to be bundled with CPT codes 88002-85999 or 87800-87906.

Code	Description
36415	Collection of venous blood by Venipuncture
36416	Collection of capillary blood specimen (eg. finger, heel, ear stick)
36591	Collection of blood specimen from a completely implantable venous access device
36592	Collection of blood specimen using established central or peripheral catheter, venous, not otherwise specified

A physician’s office is reimbursed only one specimen collection fee per encounter regardless of the number of samples drawn or tests performed from a sample.

Related Policies & References

Medicare Claims Processing Manual – Chapter 16 – Laboratory Services

907 KAR 3.010 Physicians services

State Exceptions

NONE

Document Revision History
