Reimbursement Policies prepared by CSMG Co. and its affiliates (including CareSource) are intended to provide a general reference regarding billing, coding and documentation guidelines. Coding methodology, regulatory requirements, industry-standard claims editing logic, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing Reimbursement Policies.

In addition to this Policy, Reimbursement of services is subject to member benefits and eligibility on the date of service, medical necessity, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, provider contractual agreement, and applicable referral, authorization, notification and utilization management guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any federal or state coverage mandate, Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

This Policy does not ensure an authorization or Reimbursement of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced herein. If there is a conflict between this Policy and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

CSMG Co. and its affiliates may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this Policy to services provided in a particular case and may modify this Policy at any time.

## Contents of Policy

- **REIMBURSEMENT POLICY STATEMENT** ................................................................. 1
- **TABLE OF CONTENTS** .................................................................................. 1
  - A. **SUBJECT** ............................................................................................ 2
  - B. **BACKGROUND** .................................................................................. 2
  - C. **DEFINITIONS** ..................................................................................... 2
  - D. **POLICY** ............................................................................................. 2
  - E. **CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE** ......................................................... 3
  - F. **RELATED POLICIES/RULES** ............................................................ 3
  - G. **REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY** ......................................................... 3
  - H. **REFERENCES** ..................................................................................... 4
A. SUBJECT
Molecular Testing for Gastrointestinal Illness

B. BACKGROUND
Molecular testing, following a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis can help guide appropriate therapy by identifying specific therapeutic targets and appropriate pharmaceutical interventions. Molecular diagnostic testing utilizes Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), a genetic amplification technique that only requires small quantities of DNA, for example, 0.1 mg of DNA from a single cell, to achieve DNA analysis in a shorter laboratory processing time. Knowing the gene sequence, or at minimum the borders of the target segment of DNA to be amplified, is a prerequisite to a successful PCR amplification of DNA.

Gastrointestinal illness, as addressed in this policy, include Clostridium difficile, E. Coli, Salmonella, Shigella, Norovirus and Giardia. These infection and illnesses of the intestine can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and abdominal cramping. There are three basic modes of transmission: in food, in water and person to person. While some of these illnesses will resolve on their own, others can spread throughout the body and require treatment to prevent a more devastating illness.

All facilities in the United States that perform laboratory testing on human specimens for health assessment or the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of disease are regulated under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). Waived tests include test systems cleared by the FDA for home use and those tests approved for waiver under the CLIA criteria. Although CLIA requires that waived tests must be simple and have a low risk for erroneous results, this does not mean that waived tests are completely error-proof. CareSource may periodically require review of a provider’s office testing policies and procedures when performing CLIA-waived tests.

C. DEFINITIONS
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) - a genetic amplification technique also known as a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)
- Medically Necessary - Health care services or supplies needed to diagnosis or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease or its symptoms and that meet the accepted standards of medicine.

D. POLICY
I. No Prior Authorization is required for the Molecular Diagnostic Testing by PCR addressed in this policy.
II. CareSource considers Molecular Diagnostic Testing by PCR medically necessary for the following gastrointestinal illnesses, when submitted with any combination of the CPT and diagnosis codes listed in the Conditions of Coverage of this policy.
   A. Clostridium Difficile
   B. Salmonella
   C. Shigella
   D. Norovirus
   E. Giardia

III. CareSource does not consider Molecular Diagnostic Testing by PCR medically necessary for gastrointestinal illnesses when billed with any other diagnosis code and will not provide reimbursement for those services.

IV. Conventional testing, such as stool and saliva samples for these illnesses is viewed as low cost and given that not all cases of acute diarrhea are indicative of these illnesses, institutions should utilize these before the higher cost Molecular Testing by PCR as the first testing option for the initial clinical presentation of acute diarrhea.
E. CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87493</td>
<td>Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Clostridium difficile, toxin gene(s), amplified probe technique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87505</td>
<td>Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); gastrointestinal pathogen (eg, Clostridium difficile, E. coli, Salmonella, Shigella, norovirus, Giardia), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 3-5 targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87506</td>
<td>Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); gastrointestinal pathogen (eg, Clostridium difficile, E. coli, Salmonella, Shigella, norovirus, Giardia), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 6-11 targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87507</td>
<td>Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); gastrointestinal pathogen (eg, Clostridium difficile, E. coli, Salmonella, Shigella, norovirus, Giardia), includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 12-25 targets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F. RELATED POLICIES/RULES

N/A
Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Gastrointestinal Illness
OH MEDICAID
PY-0448
Effective Date: 12/01/2018

G. REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Issued</td>
<td>12/01/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Revised</td>
<td>11/07/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Effective</td>
<td>Updated next review date to 12/01/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

H. REFERENCES


The Reimbursement Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the Reimbursement Policy Statement Policy and is approved.