

## REIMBURSEMENT POLICY STATEMENT GEORGIA MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Policy Name		Policy Number	Effective Date
Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Streptococcus A and B Infection		PY-1276	01/01/2021
Policy Type			
Medical	Administrative	Pharmacy	REIMBURSEMENT

Reimbursement Policy Statement: Reimbursement Policies prepared by CareSource and its affiliates 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.

CareSource 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.

According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

### Table of Contents

Reimbursement Policy Statement .....	1
A. Subject.....	2
B. Background.....	2
C. Definitions .....	3
D. Policy .....	3
E. Conditions of Coverage.....	3
F. Related Policies/Rules .....	5
G. Review/Revision History .....	5
H. References .....	5



## A. Subject

### **Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Streptococcus A and B Infection**

## B. Background

Reimbursement policies are designed to assist you when submitting claims to CareSource. They are routinely updated to promote accurate coding and policy clarification. These proprietary policies are not a guarantee of payment. Reimbursement for claims may be subject to limitations and/or qualifications. Reimbursement will be established based upon a review of the actual services provided to a member and will be determined when the claim is received for processing. Health care providers and their office staff are encouraged to use self-service channels to verify member's eligibility.

It is the responsibility of the submitting provider to submit the most accurate and appropriate CPT/HCPCS code(s) for the product or service that is being provided. The inclusion of a code in this policy does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claims payment.

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.

Illnesses caused by Streptococcus A include Pharyngitis (strep throat), Scarlet Fever, Acute Rheumatic Fever and Post Streptococcal Glomerulonephritis. Illnesses caused by Streptococcus B include Bacteremia, Sepsis, Pneumonia, skin and soft tissue infections, bone and joint infections, meningitis (although this is a rare occurrence in adults). Screening for Streptococcus B should be done between 35 and 37 weeks in every pregnant women, as it is most commonly passed to newborns during the birthing process.

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

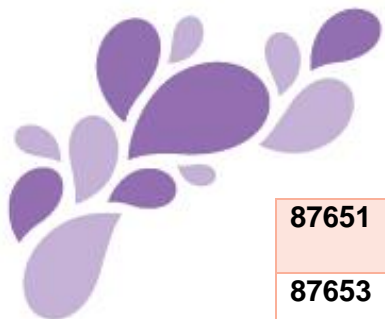
- I. No Prior Authorization is required for the Molecular Diagnostic Testing by PCR addressed in this policy when the following criteria are met:
  - A. Conventional testing, such as the rapid strep test (throat culture), has been performed with a negative result on the same date of service as the requested molecular diagnostic test, AND;
  - B. The member presents with cardinal streptococcus A and/or B symptoms to include but not limited to:
    1. red, swollen tonsils
    2. white or yellow coating or patches on the tonsils
    3. sore throat
    4. difficult or painful swallowing
    5. fever
    6. bad breath
    7. stiff neck
    8. enlarged, tender glands (lymph nodes) in the neck
- II. CareSource considers Molecular Diagnostic Testing by PCR for Streptococcus A and Streptococcus B infection appropriate as the first line of testing only when submitted with any combination of the CPT and ICD-10 diagnosis codes listed in the Conditions of Coverage in this policy.
- III. Conventional testing, such as the rapid strep test (throat culture) for Streptococcus A; cultures of sterile body fluids and/ or vaginal and rectal cultures in pregnant women for Streptococcus B, are viewed as effective, low cost and should be utilized before the higher cost Molecular Diagnostic Testing by PCR.

### E. Conditions of Coverage

Reimbursement is dependent on, but not limited to, submitting Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved HCPCS and CPT codes along with appropriate modifiers. Please refer to the CMS fee schedule for appropriate codes.

- **The following list(s) of codes is provided as a reference. This list may not be all inclusive and is subject to updates.**

CPT Code	Description
----------	-------------



<b>87651</b>	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Streptococcus, group A, amplified probe technique
<b>87653</b>	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); Streptococcus, group B, amplified probe technique
<b>ICD-10 Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>A38.0</b>	Scarlet fever with otitis media
<b>A38.1</b>	Scarlet fever with myocarditis
<b>A38.8</b>	Scarlet fever with other complications
<b>A38.9</b>	Scarlet fever, uncomplicated
<b>A40.0</b>	Sepsis due to streptococcus, group A
<b>A40.1</b>	Sepsis due to streptococcus, group B
<b>A40.3</b>	Sepsis due to Streptococcus pneumoniae
<b>A40.8</b>	Other streptococcal sepsis
<b>A40.9</b>	Streptococcal sepsis, unspecified
<b>A41.9</b>	Sepsis, unspecified organism
<b>B95.0</b>	Streptococcus, group A, as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
<b>B95.1</b>	Streptococcus, group B, as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
<b>G00.2</b>	Streptococcal meningitis
<b>I00</b>	Rheumatic fever without heart involvement
<b>I01.0</b>	Acute rheumatic pericarditis
<b>I01.1</b>	Acute rheumatic endocarditis
<b>I01.2</b>	Acute rheumatic myocarditis
<b>I01.8</b>	Other acute rheumatic heart disease
<b>I01.9</b>	Acute rheumatic heart disease, unspecified
<b>J02.0</b>	Streptococcal pharyngitis
<b>J03.00</b>	Acute streptococcal tonsillitis, unspecified
<b>J03.01</b>	Acute recurrent streptococcal tonsillitis
<b>J13</b>	Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae
<b>J15.3</b>	Pneumonia due to streptococcus, group B
<b>J15.4</b>	Pneumonia due to other streptococci
<b>J20.2</b>	Acute bronchitis due to streptococcus
<b>M72.6</b>	Necrotizing fasciitis
<b>N00.9</b>	Acute nephritic syndrome with unspecified morphologic changes
<b>O99.511</b>	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, first trimester
<b>O99.512</b>	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, second trimester
<b>O99.513</b>	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, third trimester
<b>O99.519</b>	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, unspecified trimester
<b>O99.52</b>	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating childbirth
<b>O99.53</b>	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating the puerperium
<b>O99.820</b>	Streptococcus B carrier state complicating pregnancy
<b>O99.824</b>	Streptococcus B carrier state complicating childbirth
<b>O99.825</b>	Streptococcus B carrier state complicating the puerperium
<b>P23.3</b>	Congenital pneumonia due to streptococcus, group B
<b>P36.0</b>	Sepsis of newborn due to streptococcus, group B



#### F. Related Policies/Rules

N/A

#### G. Review/Revision History

DATE		ACTION
Date Issued	10/14/2020	New Policy
Date Revised		
Date Effective	01/01/2021	
Date Archived		

#### H. References

1. Group B Strep | GBS | Home | Streptococcus | CDC. (2019, June 25). Retrieved 7/29/19 from [www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep](http://www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep).
2. Group A Strep | Home | Group A Streptococcus | GAS | CDC. (2018, November 1). Retrieved 7/29/19 from [www.cdc.gov/groupAstrep](http://www.cdc.gov/groupAstrep).
3. License Agreement. (2019, January 15). Retrieved 7/29/19 from [www.cms.gov/apps/ama/license.asp?file=/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ClinicalLabFeeSched/Downloads/19CLABQ1.zip](http://www.cms.gov/apps/ama/license.asp?file=/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ClinicalLabFeeSched/Downloads/19CLABQ1.zip).
4. Medically Necessary. (2019, July 29). Retrieved 7/29/19 from [www.healthcare.gov/glossary/medically-necessary/](http://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/medically-necessary/).

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