



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama medical policy #566, Drug Testing, has undergone a major coding update for 2017. Below is an overview of the coding changes that have occurred. Coding for drug testing relies on a structure of “screening” (known as “presumptive” testing) followed by quantitative or “definitive” testing to confirm and identify the specific drug and quantity. Blue Cross will continue to follow the guidance of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and not recognize the American Medical Association’s (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes 80300-80377. Coverage for any of the codes listed below is still subject to the medical criteria set forth in the policy.

**Effective January 1, 2017**

The following HCPCS codes were **deleted**:

- G0477, G0479 (presumptive/qualitative testing)

The following HCPCS and CPT codes were **added**:

- 80305-80307 (presumptive/qualitative testing)
- G0659 (definitive/quantitative testing)

**Presumptive Testing**

Only one of the new presumptive testing CPT codes may be billed per date of service. Routine **per-visit** drug testing is noncovered. The “level of complexity” of the testing helps determine the appropriate presumptive CPT code to bill. Coverage will be determined by criteria listed in medical policy #566, Drug Testing.

**Note:** These codes include sample validation when performed and separate coding for that testing should **not** be submitted.

HCPCS Code	Description
80305	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures (e.g., immunoassay); capable of being read by direct optical observation only (e.g., dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges) includes sample validation when performed, per date of service.
80306	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures (e.g., immunoassay); read by instrument assisted direct optical observation (e.g., dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service.
80307	Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures, by instrument chemistry analyzers (e.g., utilizing immunoassay [eg, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA, IA, KIMS, RIA]), chromatography (e.g., GC, HPLC), and mass spectrometry either with or without chromatography, (e.g., DART, DESI, GC-MS, GC-MS/MS, LC-MS, LC-MS/MS, LDTD, MALDI, TOF) includes sample validation when performed, per date of service.

## Definitive Testing

The unit to determine the appropriate definitive testing HCPCS code to bill is “drug class.” Each drug class (see listing below) is counted as a single unit and may only be used once in determining the appropriate HCPCS code to bill. Only one of these codes may be billed per date of service. Coverage will be determined by criteria listed in medical policy #566, Drug Testing. Comprehensive definitive drug testing panels are non-covered.

**Note:** These codes include sample validation when performed and separate coding for that testing should not be submitted.

HCPCS Code	Description
G0480	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix-matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 1-7 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.
G0481	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix-matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 8-14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.
G0482	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix-matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 15-21 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.
G0483	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing (1) drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including, but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase)), (2) stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standards in all samples (e.g., to control for matrix effects, interferences and variations in signal strength), and (3) method or drug-specific calibration and matrix-matched quality control material (e.g., to control for instrument variations and mass spectral drift); qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day; 22 or more drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.
G0659	Drug test(s), definitive, utilizing drug identification methods able to identify individual drugs and distinguish between structural isomers (but not necessarily stereoisomers), including but not limited to, GC/MS (any type, single or tandem) and LC/MS (any type, single or tandem), excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase), performed without method or drug-specific calibration, without matrix-matched quality control material, or without use of stable isotope or other universally recognized internal standard(s) for each drug, drug metabolite or drug class per specimen; qualitative or quantitative, all sources, includes specimen validity testing, per day, any number of drug classes.

**Drug classes** are listed below and are consistent with their usage in the AMA CPT Manual. The AMA CPT Manual may be consulted for examples of individual drugs within each class.

Alcohol(s)	Heroin metabolites
Alcohol biomarkers	Ketamine and norketamine
Alkaloids, not otherwise specified	Methadone
Amphetamines	Methylenedioxyamphetamines
Anabolic steroids	Methylphenidate
Analgesics, non-opioid	Opiates
Antidepressants, serotonergic class	Opioids and opiate analogs
Antidepressants, tricyclic and other cyclicals	Oxycodone
Antidepressants, not otherwise specified	Phencyclidine
Antiepileptics, not otherwise specified	Pregabalin
Antipsychotics, not otherwise specified	Propoxyphene
Barbiturates	Sedative hypnotics (nonbenzodiazepines)
Benzodiazepines	Skeletal muscle relaxants
Buprenorphine	Stereoisomer (enantiomer) analysis
Cannabinoids, natural	Stimulants, synthetic
Cannabinoids, synthetic	Tapentadol
Cocaine	Tramadol
Fentanyl	Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified
Gabapentin, non-blood	

**Blue Advantage<sup>®</sup>, note the following differences:**

- Local Coverage Determinations for Qualitative Drug Testing (L34501) and Quantitative Drug Testing (L35920) have undergone a major coding update for 2017.
- Coverage for any of the codes listed above is still subject to the medical criteria set forth in the Local Coverage Determination.