Medical Necessity Guidelines: Urine Drug Testing

Effective: December 1, 2022

**Prior Authorization Required**

If REQUIRED, submit supporting clinical documentation pertinent to service request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applies to:</th>
<th>Yes ☐ No ☒</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMERCIAL Products</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Tufts Health Plan Commercial products; Fax: 617.972.9409</td>
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<tr>
<td>☒ Tufts Health Freedom Plan products; Fax: 617.972.9409</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CareLink℠ – Refer to CareLink Procedures, Services and Items Requiring Prior Authorization</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TUFTS HEALTH PUBLIC PLANS Products</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>☒ Tufts Health Direct – A Massachusetts Qualified Health Plan (QHP) (a commercial product); Fax: 888.415.9055</td>
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<tr>
<td>☒ Tufts Health Together – MassHealth MCO Plan and Accountable Care Partnership Plans; Fax: 888.415.9055</td>
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<tr>
<td>☒ Tufts Health RITogether – A Rhode Island Medicaid Plan; Fax: 857.304.6404</td>
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<tr>
<td>☒ Tufts Health Unify* – OneCare Plan (a dual-eligible product); Fax: 857.304.6304</td>
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<tr>
<td>*The MNG applies to Tufts Health Unify members unless a less restrictive LCD or NCD exists.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SENIOR Products</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Tufts Health Plan Senior Care Options (SCO), (a dual-eligible product) – Refer to the Tufts Health Plan SCO Prior Authorization List</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO, (a Medicare Advantage product) – Refer to the Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO Prior Authorization and Inpatient Notification List</td>
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**OVERVIEW**

Urine drug screening/testing is used in pain management and substance abuse treatment settings to assess and monitor drug misuse and/or abuse. Members in these settings are at risk for abusing or misusing prescribed opioids and/or non-prescribed drugs and should be assessed at the initiation of treatment as well as monitored while they are receiving treatment. Urine drug testing is a widely utilized method for monitoring opioid use in chronic pain individuals. It is used for tracking member compliance and exposing possible drug misuse and abuse. Urine drug testing should not routinely include a panel of all drugs of abuse. The test should be focused on the detection of specific drugs/drug metabolites. The frequency of testing should be at the lowest level to detect the presence of drugs.

Presumptive/Qualitative urine drug testing/screening (UDT) is used to determine the presence or absence of drugs in a urine sample. A positive test result is conveyed when the drug concentration is above the cut-off value. Definitive/Quantitative/Confirmatory urine drug testing (UDT) recognizes medication, illicit substances, and metabolites. In contrast to presumptive UDT, definitive testing is performed using a highly sensitive method that specifies particular drugs and drug quantities.

**Note:** All urine drug testing should be performed at an appropriate frequency based on clinical needs. Substance abuse treatment adherence is often best measured through random testing rather than frequent scheduled testing. The preferred method of urine drug testing for a member with a history of poly-substance abuse during the monitoring period is by utilization of a multi-drug screening kit (qualitative analysis by multiplex method for 2-15 drugs or drug classes). A full panel screen should only be considered for initial testing when appropriate or when the Member’s behavior suggests the use of drugs not identified on the original screening. Medical documentation must support the justification for conducting a full panel screening. Subsequent testing should only be conducted for those substances identified on the Member’s initial profile.
CLINICAL COVERAGE CRITERIA
Prior Authorization is Not Required

Presumptive Testing
Tufts Health Plan (THP) considers presumptive testing as reasonable and medically necessary for individuals with chronic pain when documentation confirms ANY of the following:

- Member is initiating treatment in a pain management or substance abuse program, OR
- Member’s clinical history and evaluation suggests use of non-prescribed medications or illegal substances, OR
- Member is on chronic opioid therapy and has a history of substance abuse and is at high risk for medication abuse due to psychiatric reasons
- Ongoing monitoring when medical record documentation supports testing is part of an active treatment plan

Tufts Health Plan (THP) considers presumptive testing as reasonable and medically necessary for individuals with suspected drug overdose when documentation confirms ANY of the following:

- Unexplained coma, OR
- Altered mental status in the absence of a clinically defined toxic syndrome or toxidrome, OR
- Severe or unexplained cardiovascular instability (cardiotoxicity), OR
- Unexplained metabolic or respiratory acidosis in the absence of a clinically defined toxic syndrome or toxidrome, OR
- Seizures with an undetermined history, OR
- To provide antagonist to specific drug OR
- Acute psychiatric events due to a stimulant induced psychosis, OR
- Drug use screening for member awaiting organ transplant, OR
- Member under the age of 18 with a sibling with a positive urine drug test
- Fetal withdrawal syndrome
- Possible exposure of the fetus to illicit drugs taken by the mother

Tufts Health Plan (THP) considers presumptive testing as reasonable and medically necessary for children with history for suspected use of non-prescribed medications or illegal substance.

Definitive Testing
Tufts Health Plan (THP) considers definitive or confirmatory testing for the treatment planning by the ordering physician (written orders) as reasonable and medically necessary when ANY of the following indications are met:

- Immunoassays for the relevant drug(s) are not commercially available, OR
- A presumptive screen was negative for prescribed medications [Testing should ONLY be ordered for the prescribed drug], OR
- A presumptive screen was positive for a prescription drug with abuse potential not prescribed to the member, OR
- A presumptive screen was inconclusive or inconsistent, OR
- Qualitative test was positive for an illegal drug

Therapeutic Drug Assays are considered medically necessary when performed to monitor a clinical response to a known, prescribed medication.

Documentation Requirements
- All documentation must be maintained in the Member’s medical record and available to Tufts Health Plan upon request.
- The record must include the identity of the physician or non-physician practitioner responsible for and providing the care of the Member.
- If requested for review, the submitted medical record should support the use of the selected ICD-CM code(s). The submitted CPT/HCPCS code should describe the service performed. Documentation maintained by the ordering physician/treating physician must indicate the medical necessity for performing a qualitative drug test. All tests must be ordered in writing by the treating provider and all drugs/drug classes to be tested must be indicated in the order. Orders which include statements such as "conduct additional testing as needed or custom profile” will not be accepted by Tufts Health Plan.
• If the provider of the service is other than the ordering/referring physician, that provider must maintain printed copy documentation of the lab results, along with printed copies of the ordering/referring physician’s order for the qualitative drug test. The physician must include the clinical indication/medical necessity in the order for the qualitative drug test.

**LIMITATIONS**

Tufts Health Plan (THP) considers urine drug testing as not medically necessary for all other indications. In addition, THP does not cover:

- Specimen validity or adulteration testing
- Continuous urine drug testing (e.g. Litholink Urine Test)
- Mandated drug testing (e.g. court-ordered, residential monitoring, non-medically necessary testing)
- Employment or job screening testing
- Blanket orders (i.e. identical orders for all members in a clinician’s practice without individualized decision making at every visit)
- Aspenti Test

**Note:** Use of non-contracting labs may have the unintended consequence of subjecting the Member to unnecessary services not ordered by you as the treating provider or other unreasonable financial exposure. In such circumstances, Tufts Health Plan may hold you accountable for any inappropriate behavior on the part of the non-participating lab that you selected.

For information regarding billing and compensation, refer to the Laboratory and Pathology Payment Policy on our website.

**CODES**

**Table 1: Covered CPT and HCPCS Codes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80305</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>80306</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>80307</td>
<td>Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes, any number of devices or procedures, by instrument chemistry analyzers (e.g., utilizing immunoassay [e.g., 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</td>
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<tr>
<td>80375</td>
<td>Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>80376</td>
<td>Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 4-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>80377</td>
<td>Drug(s) or substance(s), definitive, qualitative or quantitative, not otherwise specified; 7 or more</td>
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<tr>
<td>G0480</td>
<td>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) and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase); qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 1-7 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPT Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>G0481</td>
<td>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) and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase); qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 8-14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed</td>
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<tr>
<td>G0482</td>
<td>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) and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase); qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 15-21 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed</td>
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<tr>
<td>G0843</td>
<td>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) and excluding immunoassays (e.g., IA, EIA, ELISA, EMIT, FPIA) and enzymatic methods (e.g., alcohol dehydrogenase); qualitative or quantitative, all sources(s), includes specimen validity testing, per day, 22 or more drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES**


**APPROVAL HISTORY**

June 18, 2013: Reviewed and approved by Integrated Medical Policy Advisory Committee (IMPAC) for a January 1, 2014 effective date.

Subsequent endorsement date(s) and changes made:
- November 19, 2014: Reviewed by IMPAC, renewed without changes
- December 31, 2014: Coding updated. Per AMA CPT®, effective December 31, 2014 the following code(s) deleted: 80100, 80101, 80102 and 80104; and effective January 1, 2015 the following code(s) added: G6058, 80375, 80376, 80377.
- August 12, 2015: Reviewed by IMPAC. Renewed with minor language clarifications.
- September 2015: Branding and template change to distinguish Tufts Health Plan products in "Applies to" section. Added Tufts Health Freedom Plan products, effective January 1, 2016.
December 31, 2015: Coding updated. Per AMA CPT®, effective December 31, 2015 the following code(s) are deleted, G0431, G0434, G6058 the following codes are added, G0477, G0478, G0479, G0480, G0481, G0482, G0483.

September 14, 2016: Reviewed by IMPAC, renewed without changes

December 31, 2016: Coding updated. Per AMA CPT®, effective December 31, 2016 the following codes are deleted, G0477, G0478, G0479. Effective January 1, 2017 the following codes are added: 80305, 80306, 80307.

April 2017: Added RITogether Plan product to template. For MNGs applicable to RITogether, effective date is August 1, 2017

August 9, 2017: Reviewed by IMPAC, renewed without changes

October 10, 2018: Reviewed by IMPAC, renewed without changes

October 2018: Template and disclaimer updated

October 16, 2019: Reviewed by IMPAC, renewed without changes

October 21, 2020: Reviewed by IMPAC, renewed without changes

December 5, 2020: Fax number for Unify updated

August 18, 2021: Reviewed by IMPAC, language updated for integration purposes with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, effective October 1, 2021

December 21, 2021: Reviewed by Medical Policy Approval Committee (MPAC), renewed without changes

December 1, 2022: Reviewed by MPAC, renewed without changes

**BACKGROUND, PRODUCT AND DISCLAIMER INFORMATION**

Medical Necessity Guidelines are developed to determine coverage for benefits, and are published to provide a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. We make coverage decisions using these guidelines, along with the Member’s benefit document, and in coordination with the Member’s physician(s) on a case-by-case basis considering the individual Member’s health care needs.

Medical Necessity Guidelines are developed for selected therapeutic or diagnostic services found to be safe and proven effective in a limited, defined population of patients or clinical circumstances. They include concise clinical coverage criteria based on current literature review, consultation with practicing physicians in our service area who are medical experts in the particular field, FDA and other government agency policies, and standards adopted by national accreditation organizations. We revise and update Medical Necessity Guidelines annually, or more frequently if new evidence becomes available that suggests needed revisions.

For self-insured plans, coverage may vary depending on the terms of the benefit document. If a discrepancy exists between a Medical Necessity Guideline and a self-insured Member’s benefit document, the provisions of the benefit document will govern.

Treating providers are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of Members. The use of this guideline is not a guarantee of payment or a final prediction of how specific claim(s) will be adjudicated. Claims payment is subject to eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization, utilization management guidelines when applicable, and adherence to plan policies, plan procedures, and claims editing logic.