



UnitedHealthcare® Community Plan

New Vitamin D Reimbursement Policy

Effective January 18, 2019

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan has implemented a new Vitamin D Testing Reimbursement Policy. The policy applies to claims with dates of service on or after January 18, 2019. The new reimbursement policy will reimburse up to four Vitamin D tests per year for members who are diagnosed with one of the diagnosis codes listed in the reimbursement policy. Vitamin D will not be covered for members who do not have one of the conditions in the approved diagnosis list. For Vitamin D testing without a covered Diagnosis Code, Clinical Pathology Laboratories will need to pursue an appropriate Diagnosis Code or, if unsuccessful, convert the billing to the patient or clinic.

Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin obtained primarily through fortified foods or supplements and from dermal (skin) synthesis from exposure to sunlight. The 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)VitD) form of the vitamin represents the primary storage pool, and measurements of 25(OH)VitD inform about the body's overall Vitamin D status. The 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D (1,25(OH)2VitD) represents the active form of the vitamin, responsible for calcium metabolism including bone health. 1,25(OH)2VitD also regulates the expression of genes in many other tissues including immune cells, muscle, vasculature and reproductive organs.

Per the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and The American College of Endocrinology, "Reasonable approaches to Vitamin D assessment and treatment include an initial measurement of 25(OH)D in patients at risk of deficiency, or alternatively, Vitamin D supplementation and subsequent 25(OH)D measurement 3-4 months later to assess dose adequacy."¹

Vitamin D deficiency may result from:

- inadequate exposure to sunlight or intake of Vitamin D
- reduced absorption of Vitamin D (e.g., malabsorption syndromes)
- medications or disorders that affect the metabolism of Vitamin D and phosphate (e.g., glucocorticoids, chronic kidney disease)
- resistance to the effects of Vitamin D

Causes of malabsorption may include:

- diseases of the gallbladder, liver, or pancreas
- some conditions such as cystic fibrosis
- damage to the intestine from infection, inflammation, trauma, or surgery
- parasitic diseases
- certain congenital defects such as biliary atresia

Another reason to measure serum 25(OH)VitD is in hypercalcemic individuals when there is a suspicion of Vitamin D intoxication due to over-the-counter drugs, fortification errors, or excessive dosing.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will allow four Vitamin D tests per year, when submitted with an appropriate ICD-10 diagnosis code plus the codes UnitedHealthcare has added to that list in any position. Vitamin D tests that do not include a diagnosis from the Vitamin D Testing diagnosis list will be denied. The laboratory has summarized the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan codes as follows:

Tests Affected:

Test Name	Unit Code	CPT Code
Vitamin D, 25 Hydroxy	4958	82306
Vitamin D, 1,25 Dihydroxy	4960	82652

You can view a list of the codes and the full policy at UHCprovider.com > Menu > Policies and Protocol > Community Plan Policies > Reimbursement Policies for Community Plan.

Most Common Appropriate ICD-10 Code Descriptions:

ICD-10 Code	Description
E55.9	Vitamin D deficiency
Z79.899	Other long term (current) drug therapy
M79.1	Myalgia
M81.0	Osteoporosis without current pathological fracture
M85.80	Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, unspecified site
Z98.84	Bariatric surgery status
E83.52	Disorders of calcium metabolism
K90.9	Intestinal malabsorption
M85.9	Disorder of bone density and structure, unspecified

¹<http://journals.aace.com/doi/pdf/10.4158/PS-2018-0050>