

**PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA  
POLICY / PROCEDURE**

<b>Policy/Procedure Number: CLPM-25</b>		<b>Lead Department: Claims</b>	
<b>Policy/Procedure Title: Laboratory Services</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>External Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Internal Policy</b>	
<b>Original Date: 9/1/25</b>		<b>Next Review Date: 01/01/2026</b> <b>Last Review Date:</b>	
<b>Applies to:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Medi-Cal</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Employees</b>
<b>Reviewing Entities:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>IQI</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>P &amp; T</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>QUAC</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>OPERATIONS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>EXECUTIVE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>COMPLIANCE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>DEPARTMENT</b>
<b>Approving Entities:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BOARD</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>COMPLIANCE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>FINANCE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>PAC</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CEO</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>COO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CREDENTIALING</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>DEPT. DIRECTOR/OFFICER</b>
<b>Approval Signature: <i>Lisa Malvo</i></b>			<b>Approval Date: 9/1/25</b>

**I. RELATED POLICIES:**

A. N/A

**II. IMPACTED DEPTS:**

A. Claims

**III. DEFINITIONS:**

A. N/A

**IV. ATTACHMENTS:**

A. N/A

**V. PURPOSE:**

To provide, for the provider, general guidelines and requirements relating to Laboratory Services.

**VI. POLICY / PROCEDURE:**

- A. Partnership has a capitated contract with Quest Diagnostics to provide laboratory services for Partnership members in the Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo counties. The Quest Diagnostics contract is a statewide contract and covers all Quest Diagnostics sites. Please note – members that reside in Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Trinity or Shasta Counties are not included in the Quest capitation agreement and should be paid fee for service.
- B. Partnership only pays applicable contracted provider enhancement to the professional component of lab services. If a lab code is billed with the professional and technical component combined on one service line, the Partnership system will automatically default to the flat Medi-Cal rate with no enhancement. To qualify for the enhancement, professional and technical components must be billed on separate lines.
- C. Pre-admit lab testing should be sent to Quest with the exception of members residing in the counties listed above that are not included.
- D. Lab services for Woodland Medical Group members are the financial responsibility of Woodland Medical Group.

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E. For Partnership contracted providers in Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties Partnership has modified billing rules for a few laboratory services. These changes were drafted by senior staff at Partnership and reviewed and approved by the Physician Advisory Committee. The intent of the changes is to improve efficiency and quality of care, balancing our responsibility to be stewards of the taxpayer resources by controlling costs.

This does not apply to Woodland Medical group members seen at Woodland medical group.

The following changes are effective for dates of service on or after the dates listed below:

1. Effective for dates of service on or after 7/1/12, laboratory codes 87804 (Rapid Influenza Test) and 87880 (Rapid Strep Test) are included in your primary care capitation. Claims submitted to Partnership with these codes will be reflected on your Partnership RA with an explanation code 24, payment for charges covered under cap agreement/managed care plan.
2. Effective for dates of service on or after 8/1/12, laboratory codes 81025 (Urine Pregnancy Test) and G0434 (Urine Toxicology Test) will be paid on a fee-for- service basis if billed by a primary care physician or specialist with a location code of 11 (office). Effective 10/1/16, G0434 is no longer a valid code. Effective for dates of service on or after 8/1/12, laboratory codes 80048 (BMP) and 85025 (CBC) will be paid fee-for-service if billed by a Hematologist or an Oncologist with a location code of 11 (office).

F. Exceptions to Partnership’s Lab Capitation:

For the five (5) covered counties, Quest is capitated to provide all laboratory services for our network, with certain exceptions:

1. Stat labs ordered between 3pm and 8am may be done at the local hospital (this was done because of the 4-hour turnaround guarantee that Quest has, and frequent issues at the end of the day).
2. The list of labs that may be ordered “Stat” is defined (see attachment)
3. Some in-office labs (defined) are paid FFS for primary care and specialists and outpatient surgery centers. Here is the list:
  - a. OB/GYN/CNM – 87210, 81000, 81001, 81015, 81025, and 87205
  - b. Dermatology – 87220, 87101, and 87210
  - c. Urology – 81000, 81015, 87086,87087, 87088, 87184, 87205, and 87210
  - d. PCP/Specialists – 81025 and G0435, 80305, 80306
  - e. Specialists – 81000, 81002, 82948, and 85018
4. Some unusual labs are carved out and are performed at any lab that will do them (e.g. many genetic tests). See Partnership’s genetic testing policy for details.
5. Effective March 1, 2017, Hospital-associated laboratories may provide blood typing and other tests that need to be performed by blood banks. This includes the following CPT codes: 85660, 86022, 86644, 86850, 86880, 86900, 86901, 86904, 86920-23, 86945.
6. Pre-op labs performed by hospital outpatient departments (location code 22) and surgical centers (location code 24) do not need to be performed at Quest; the remarks section must include “Pre-op Lab”

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7. Wet mounts (87210) are included in capitation for PCPs and may be performed by any clinician.
8. Effective October 1, 2016, Partnership contracted pain specialists may bill for the following urine toxicology tests when performed within their office: 80307 (in addition to 80305 or 80306, which is already covered for all outpatient clinicians).
9. Effective August 1, 2019, Lead testing (CPT: 83655) will be reimbursed when provided in the office setting or by public health laboratories, including in counties with Quest capitation.
10. Arterial blood tests are performed in acute care setting (typically hospitals) although they can be performed through the respiratory therapy departments of hospitals on an outpatient basis. These tests are not part of Quest capitation: 82800, 82803, 82805, 82810, 82820.
11. All tests for COVID (including PCR, Serology and any future tests) are not included in Quest capitation. These include: C9803 (lab specimen collection), 87635 (nucleic acid), 86318 (not specific to COVID single step), 86328 (single step), 86769 (multistep antibody)

G. Blood Tests for Chemotherapy:

The following labs will be paid Fee for Service if done in conjunction with preparation for a patient receiving chemotherapy, on the day of chemotherapy, (usual stat lab hours restrictions don't apply):

80048 Basic Metabolic Panel  
80051 Electrolytes  
80053 Comprehensive Metabolic Panel  
83735 Magnesium  
84100 Phosphorus  
84550 Uric Acid  
83615 LDH  
85025 CBC w/ Platelets & Diff  
85027 CBC w/platelets without diff  
85014, 85018: Hemoglobin  
86900 Type and screen  
85060 Review of Peripheral Blood Smear  
85730 PTT  
85610 PT  
Urinalysis (81000-81005) and Urine Culture (87086, 87088)

H. STAT Labs

Effective for dates of service on or after 8/1/14, Partnership will pay fee-for-service for outpatient hospital stat laboratory codes listed below when billed by outpatient hospitals for service performed:

- between 3 p.m. and 8 a.m. Monday through Friday
- Holidays and weekends

The time must be documented in the remark section of the claims submitted for payment. If the time is not submitted in the remark section of the claims, normal Quest capitation edits will apply.

code	description	code	description
80048	Basic Metabolic Panel	83735	Magnesium
80051	Electrolytes	83874	Myoglobin

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80053	Comp Metabolic Panel	83880	pro-BNP
80100	Drugs of Abuse Scrn, UR	83930	Osmolality, serum/urine
80156	Carbamazapine	83935	Osmolality, serum/urine
80162	Digoxin	84075	Alkaline Phos
80164	Valproic Acid	84157	CSF Protein
80170	Gentamicin	84450	AST
80178	Lithium	84460	ALT
80184	Phenobarbitol	84484	Troponin I
80185	Dilantin	84520	BUN
80196	Salicylate	84702	HCG, Quantitative
80198	Theophylline	84703	Pregnancy Test, Qualitative
80202	Vancomycin	85014	Hemoglobin, automated
81003	Urinalysis	85018	Hemoglobin, automated
82003	Acetaminophen	85025	CBC w/ Platelets & Diff
82009	Acetone, serum/urine	85027	CBC as above without diff
82010	Acetone, serum/urine	85379	D-Dimer
82040	Albumin	85384	Fibrinogen
82055	Alcohol	85520	Factor Xa
82140	Ammonia	85610	Prothrombin Time
82150	Amylase	85730	Partial Prothrombin Time
82248	Baby Bilirubin *	86703	HIV Antibody, Rapid
82310	Calcium	86850	Type & Screen (Type portion)
82330	Ionized Calcium	86880	Direct Coombs
82550	CK Total	86900	Type & Screen (Screen portion)
82553	CK MB	86901	Transfusion Reaction Work-up
82565	Creatinine	87205	Gram Stain
82731	Fetal Fibronectin	87210	India Ink
82803	Blood Gases & pH	87400	Influenza A & B Antigen
82945	CSF Glucose	87420	RSV Antigen **
82947	Glucose	87430	Strep A Antigen, Direct
83605	Lactate - Whole Blood	89051	CSF Cell Count
87086-87088	Urine Culture (Added 2013)	84132	Potassium (Added 2013)
84295, 84302	Sodium (Added 2013)	82435	Chloride (Added 2013)
82374	Carbon Dioxide (Added 2013)	82239-82240	Fasting Bile Acids *
84100	Phosphorus	84443	TSH*
		84439	Free Thyroxine*

Reminder, normal laboratory bundling rules apply. The Partnership system will monitor and deny laboratory services that are unbundled and billed separately.

\*Indicates that this stat lab can be done by hospital laboratory at any time (not subject to hours limitations).

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\*\*Stat RSV Antigen tests may be performed at any laboratory able to run these (as Quest does not do these tests)

**VII. REFERENCES:**

A.

**VIII. DISTRIBUTION:**

A. PARTNERSHIP4ME PowerDMS Policies & Procedures

**IX. POSITION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURE:** Senior Director, Claims Department

**X. REVISION DATES:** 9/1/25