



If a conflict arises between a Clinical Payment and Coding Policy (“CPCP”) and any plan document under which a member is entitled to Covered Services, the plan document will govern. If a conflict arises between a CPCP and any provider contract pursuant to which a provider participates in and/or provides Covered Services to eligible member(s) and/or plans, the provider contract will govern. “Plan documents” include, but are not limited to, Certificates of Health Care Benefits, benefit booklets, Summary Plan Descriptions, and other coverage documents. BCBSNM may use reasonable discretion interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. BCBSNM has full and final discretionary authority for their interpretation and application to the extent provided under any applicable plan documents.

Providers are responsible for submission of accurate documentation of services performed. Providers are expected to submit claims for services rendered using valid code combinations from Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) approved code sets. Claims should be coded appropriately according to industry standard coding guidelines including, but not limited to: Uniform Billing (“UB”) Editor, American Medical Association (“AMA”), Current Procedural Terminology (“CPT®”), CPT® Assistant, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (“HCPCS”), ICD-10 CM and PCS, National Drug Codes (“NDC”), Diagnosis Related Group (“DRG”) guidelines, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”) National Correct Coding Initiative (“NCCI”) Policy Manual, CCI table edits and other CMS guidelines.

Claims are subject to the code edit protocols for services/procedures billed. Claim submissions are subject to claim review including but not limited to, any terms of benefit coverage, provider contract language, medical policies, clinical payment and coding policies as well as coding software logic. Upon request, the provider is urged to submit any additional documentation.

Onychomycosis Testing

Policy Number: CPCPLAB068

Version 1.0

Enterprise Medical Policy Committee Approval Date: 1/25/2022

Plan Effective Date: May 1, 2022

Description

BCBSNM has implemented certain lab management reimbursement criteria. Not all requirements apply to each product. Providers are urged to review Plan documents for eligible coverage for services rendered.

Reimbursement Information:

1. Direct microscopic examination with potassium hydroxide, fungal culture of desquamated subungual material, or fungal stain of a nail clipping(s) **may be reimbursable** for individuals with onychomycosis.

2. The use of nucleic acid tests* (See Note 1), including but not limited to PCR, PCR-RFLP, and next-generation sequencing (NGS), to screen for, diagnose, or confirm onychomycosis **is not reimbursable**.
3. The use of attenuated total-reflectance Fourier transform infrared (ATR-FTIR) spectroscopy to screen for, diagnose, or confirm onychomycosis **is not reimbursable**.
4. Testing for the presence of fungal-derived sterols, including but not limited to ergosterol, **is not reimbursable**.

Note 1: Nucleic acid testing of following microorganisms: *Candida* species, *Aspergillus* species, *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, *Epidermophyton floccosum*, *Neoscytalidium dimidiatum*, *Onychocola canadensis*, *Scopulariopsis* species, *Alternaria* species, *Acremonium* species, and *Fusarium* species (Ameen et al., 2014; Bongomin et al., 2018; Wollina et al., 2016).

Procedure Codes

Codes
82542, 87101, 87149, 87150, 87153, 87205, 87206, 87220, 87480, 87481, 87482, 87798, 87800, 87801, 88312, 88749

References:

AAP. (2018a). Tinea Corporis. In D. Kimberlin, M. Brady, M. Jackson, & S. Long (Eds.), *Red Book: 2018 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases* (pp. 801-804): American Academy of Pediatrics.

AAP. (2018b). Tinea Pedis and Tinea Unguium (Onychomycosis). In D. Kimberlin, M. Brady, M. Jackson, & S. Long (Eds.), *Red Book: 2018 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases* (pp. 806-808): American Academy of Pediatrics.

Abdallah, N. A., Said, M., Mahmoud, M. T., & Omar, M. A. (2019). Onychomycosis: Correlation between the dermoscopic patterns and fungal culture. *J Cosmet Dermatol*. doi:10.1111/jocd.13144

Ability Diagnostics. (2020). Onychomycosis (Nail Fungus). Retrieved from <https://www.abilitydiagnostics.com/nails>

Achterman, R. R., & White, T. C. (2013). Dermatophytes. *Curr Biol*, 23(13), R551-552. doi:10.1016/j.cub.2013.03.026

Aly, R., Winter, T., Hall, S., & Vlahovic, T. (2018). Topical Tavaborole in the Treatment of Onychomycosis Complicated by Dermatophytoma: A Post-hoc Assessment of Phase II Subjects. *J Drugs Dermatol*, 17(3), 347-354. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29537453>

- Ameen, M., Lear, J. T., Madan, V., Mohd Mustapa, M. F., & Richardson, M. (2014). British Association of Dermatologists' guidelines for the management of onychomycosis 2014. *Br J Dermatol*, *171*(5), 937-958. doi:10.1111/bjd.13358
- Arndt, K., LeBoit, P., & Wintroub, B. (2016). Onychomycosis: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention Strategies *Seminars in Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery*, *35*. Retrieved from https://www.globalacademycme.com/fileadmin/images/supplement_image/onychomycosis16/SCMS_Supl_Onychomycosis0316_V7_WEB.pdf
- Bao, F., Fan, Y., Sun, L., Yu, Y., Wang, Z., Pan, Q., . . . Zhang, F. (2018). Comparison of fungal fluorescent staining and ITS rDNA PCR-based sequencing with conventional methods for the diagnosis of onychomycosis. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*, *32*(6), 1017-1021. doi:10.1111/jdv.14843
- Bodman, M. A., & Krishnamurthy, K. (2019). Onychomycosis. In *StatPearls*. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing LLC.
- Bongomin, F., Batac, C. R., Richardson, M. D., & Denning, D. W. (2018). A Review of Onychomycosis Due to Aspergillus Species. *Mycopathologia*, *183*(3), 485-493. doi:10.1007/s11046-017-0222-9
- Bortolussi, R., & Martin, S. (2007, June 20, 2019). Antifungal agents for common outpatient paediatric infections. Retrieved from <https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/antifungal-agents-common-infections>
- Carney, C., Tosti, A., Daniel, R., Scher, R., Rich, P., DeCoster, J., & Elewski, B. (2011). A new classification system for grading the severity of onychomycosis: Onychomycosis Severity Index. *Arch Dermatol*, *147*(11), 1277-1282. doi:10.1001/archdermatol.2011.267
- CDC. (2020). Fungal Nail Infections. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/nail-infections.html>
- Daggett, C., Brodell, R. T., Daniel, C. R., & Jackson, J. (2019). Onychomycosis in Athletes. *Am J Clin Dermatol*, *20*(5), 691-698. doi:10.1007/s40257-019-00448-4
- De Bruyne, S., Speeckaert, R., Boelens, J., Hayette, M. P., Speeckaert, M., & Delanghe, J. (2019). Infrared spectroscopy as a novel tool to diagnose onychomycosis. *Br J Dermatol*, *180*(3), 637-646. doi:10.1111/bjd.17199
- Ely, J. W., Rosenfeld, S., & Seabury Stone, M. (2014). Diagnosis and management of tinea infections. *Am Fam Physician*, *90*(10), 702-710. Retrieved from <https://www.aafp.org/afp/2014/1115/p702.html>
- Gallo, L., Cinelli, E., Fabbrocini, G., & Vastarella, M. (2019). A 15-year retrospective study on the prevalence of onychomycosis in psoriatic vs non-psoriatic patients: A new European shift from dermatophytes towards yeast. *Mycoses*, *62*(8), 659-664. doi:10.1111/myc.12925
- Ghannoum, M., Mukherjee, P., Isham, N., Markinson, B., Rosso, J. D., & Leal, L. (2018). Examining the importance of laboratory and diagnostic testing when treating and diagnosing onychomycosis. *Int J Dermatol*, *57*(2), 131-138. doi:10.1111/ijd.13690

Gupta, A. K., Versteeg, S. G., & Shear, N. H. (2017). Onychomycosis in the 21st Century: An Update on Diagnosis, Epidemiology, and Treatment. *J Cutan Med Surg*, 21(6), 525-539. doi:10.1177/1203475417716362

Gupta, A. K., Versteeg, S. G., & Shear, N. H. (2018). Confirmatory Testing Prior to Initiating Onychomycosis Therapy Is Cost-Effective. *J Cutan Med Surg*, 22(2), 129-141. doi:10.1177/1203475417733461

Gupta, A. K., Versteeg, S. G., Shear, N. H., Piguet, V., Tosti, A., & Piraccini, B. M. (2019). A Practical Guide to Curing Onychomycosis: How to Maximize Cure at the Patient, Organism, Treatment, and Environmental Level. *Am J Clin Dermatol*, 20(1), 123-133. doi:10.1007/s40257-018-0403-4

Gustafson, E., Bakotic, W., Bennett, L., Page, L., & McCarthy, L. (2019). DNA-based detection for onychomycosis correlates better to histopathology than does fungal culture. *Dermatol Online J*, 25(7). Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=DNA-based+detection+for+onychomycosis+correlates+better+to+histopathology+than+does+fungal+culture>

Haghani, I., Shams-Ghahfarokhi, M., Dalimi Asl, A., Shokohi, T., & Hedayati, M. T. (2019). Molecular identification and antifungal susceptibility of clinical fungal isolates from onychomycosis (uncommon and emerging species). *Mycoses*, 62(2), 128-143. doi:10.1111/myc.12854

Ho, W. T., Li, Y., & Yang, S. (2019). Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry is effective for analysis of ergosterol in fungal-infected nails. *Clin Exp Dermatol*, 44(4), e133-e139. doi:10.1111/ced.13933

Ipsum_Diagnostics. (2020). PCR TESTING. Retrieved from <https://ipsumdiagnostics.com/homepage/pcr-testing/>

Joyce, A., Gupta, A. K., Koenig, L., Wolcott, R., & Carviel, J. (2019). Fungal Diversity and Onychomycosis An Analysis of 8,816 Toenail Samples Using Quantitative PCR and Next-Generation Sequencing. *J Am Podiatr Med Assoc*, 109(1), 57-63. doi:10.7547/17-070

Koo, S. H., Teoh, Y. L., Koh, W. L., Ochi, H., Tan, S. K., Sim, D. M. F., . . . Lim, S. P. R. (2019). Development and validation of a real-time multiplex PCR assay for the detection of dermatophytes and *Fusarium* spp. *J Med Microbiol*, 68(11), 1641-1648. doi:10.1099/jmm.0.001082

LabCorp. (2020). Fungus (Mycology) Culture. Retrieved from <https://www.labcorp.com/tests/008482/fungus-mycology-culture>

Leung, K., J, M. L., Leong, K. F., Hon, K. L., Barankin, B., A, A. M. L., & A, H. C. W. (2019). Onychomycosis: An Updated Review. *Recent Pat Inflamm Allergy Drug Discov*. doi:10.2174/1872213x13666191026090713

Lipner, S. R., & Scher, R. K. (2019). Onychomycosis: Clinical overview and diagnosis. *J Am Acad Dermatol*, 80(4), 835-851. doi:10.1016/j.jaad.2018.03.062

Lubis, N. Z., Muis, K., & Nasution, L. H. (2018). Polymerase Chain Reaction-Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism as a Confirmatory Test for Onychomycosis. *Open Access Maced J Med Sci*, 6(2), 280-283. doi:10.3889/oamjms.2018.098

Martinez-Herrera, E. O., Arroyo-Camarena, S., Tejada-Garcia, D. L., Porras-Lopez, C. F., & Arenas, R. (2015). Onychomycosis due to opportunistic molds. *An Bras Dermatol*, 90(3), 334-337. doi:10.1590/abd1806-4841.20153521

MicroGenDX. (2020). Podiatry Nail/Wound Care Retrieved from <https://microgendx.com/podiatry-nail/>

Mourad, B., Ismail, M., Hawwam, S., Msseha, M., & Hassan, R. (2019). Evaluation Of The Efficacy Of Fluorescent Staining And Chicago Sky Blue Staining As Methods For Diagnosis Of Dermatophytosis In Hair And Nails. *Clin Cosmet Investig Dermatol*, 12, 751-758. doi:10.2147/ccid.S215661

NovaDX. (2020). NAIL DIAGNOSIS.

Rios-Yuil, J. M. (2017). Onychomycosis Laboratory Diagnosis: Review. *Current Fungal Infection Reports*, 11(3). Retrieved from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12281-017-0285-6>

Romaszkiewicz, A., Bykowska, B., Zablotna, M., Sobjanek, M., Slawinska, M., & Nowicki, R. J. (2018). The prevalence and etiological factors of onychomycosis in psoriatic patients. *Postepy Dermatol Alergol*, 35(3), 309-313. doi:10.5114/pdia.2017.68299

SSI. (2020). Instructions For Use PCR KITS. Retrieved from <https://www.ssidiagnostica.com/upload/files/indlaegssedler/Bog%203%20PCR/99270%20PCR%20Indlaegsseddel%20bog%203%20web.pdf>

Trevisan, F., Werner, B., & Pinheiro, R. L. (2019). Nail clipping in onychomycosis and comparison with normal nails and unguis psoriasis. *An Bras Dermatol*, 94(3), 344-347. doi:10.1590/abd1806-4841.20198301

Velasquez-Agudelo, V., & Cardona-Arias, J. A. (2017). Meta-analysis of the utility of culture, biopsy, and direct KOH examination for the diagnosis of onychomycosis. *BMC Infect Dis*, 17(1), 166. doi:10.1186/s12879-017-2258-3

Vikor. (2020). Nail-ID™. Retrieved from <https://www.vikorscientific.com/test-menu/nail-id/>
Westerberg, D. P., & Voyack, M. J. (2013). Onychomycosis: Current trends in diagnosis and treatment. *Am Fam Physician*, 88(11), 762-770. Retrieved from <https://www.aafp.org/afp/2013/1201/p762.html>

Wollina, U., Nenoff, P., Haroske, G., & Haenssle, H. A. (2016). The Diagnosis and Treatment of Nail Disorders. *Dtsch Arztebl Int*, 113(29-30), 509-518. doi:10.3238/arztebl.2016.0509

Policy Update History:

5/1/2022	New policy
----------	------------