Aetna Better Health® of Illinois Policy

Policy Name:	Urine Specimen Validity Testing	Page:	1 of 2
Department:	Medical Policy & Program Solutions	Policy Number:	XXXX.XX
Subsection:		Effective Date:	12/01/2020
Applies to:	■ Medicaid Health Plan		

PURPOSE:

Per Aetna Better Health of Illinois Policy, which is based on the NCCI Policy Manual, providers performing validity testing on urine specimens utilized for drug testing should not separately bill the validity testing. For example, if a laboratory performs a urinary PH, specific gravity, creatinine, nitrates, oxidants, or other tests to confirm that a urine specimen is not adulterated, this testing is not separately billed.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVE:

Specimen verification is considered part of a laboratory's quality assurance process and is not separately reimbursed.

DEFINITIONS:

Specimen Validity Testing	Specimen validity testing (SVT) is performed on a urine drug screen specimen to detect substitution, adulteration, or dilution. • **Substitution** - Submission of a specimen that is not characteristic of human urine. Typically, this may be water or water with salt in it and is identified by extreme creatinine and specific gravity results. • **Adulteration** - Adding a substance to a specimen after it has been collected. The product added is designed to mask the presence of, or chemically destroy, the drug or drug metabolite that the specimen may contain. An adulterant product may be added with the intention of adversely affecting the testing reagents. • **Dilution** - Result of ingestion of large amounts of water typically just before urine donation or as a result of physiological conditions. If drug/metabolites are diluted to a concentration below the initial test cutoff, a dilute urine may result in a false negative.

LEGAL/CONTRACT REFERENCE:

N/A

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Review/Revision History	
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