

New payment policy – STI testing

Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan (Blue Shield Promise) has established a new payment policy for Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing. The policy requires providers to use procedure code 87801 when submitting claims for two or more STI tests provided for the same member and date of service. This follows coding guidelines provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Effective March 1, 2026, these guidelines will be enforced by Blue Shield Promise and claims submitted that incorrectly include two or more individual test procedure codes (87491, 87591, 87661) for a single date of service will have reimbursement capped at one unit of 87801.

The STI testing payment policy has been posted in its entirety on the *Blue Shield Promise payment policies* page of the Blue Shield Provider Connection website (see link below).

Should you have any questions about these STI testing billing requirements, please contact our Blue Shield Promise Provider Customer Service team at (800) 468-9935 from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Resources

[Blue Shield Promise STI Testing Payment Policy](#) (login required to open policy document)

[CMS Article A58761 – Molecular Syndromic Panels for Infectious Disease Pathogen Identification Testing](#)