

# AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware Provider Bulletin

## Quantitative Drug Testing Policy Notification

**Effective September 1, 2020**, quantitative (definitive) drug testing to validate the identity and quantity of a specific drug or drug metabolite will be considered medically necessary and an integral part of the management of substance use disorders and chronic opioid treatment in Delaware.

### New quantitative drug testing policy

Quantitative drug testing is clinically proven and, therefore, medically necessary when ordered and arranged for by participating providers, and all of the following general and specific testing criteria are met.

Quantitative (definitive) drug testing to validate the identity and quantity of a specific drug or drug metabolite is medically necessary and constitutes an integral part of the management of substance use disorders and chronic opioid treatment.

#### All of the following criteria apply:

- A licensed physician, acting within the scope of their authority, has performed a relevant clinical evaluation.
- Documentation clearly describes the clinical situation supporting the need for the tests ordered.
- The record clearly reflects the rationale for ordering each test and test panel.
- The record displays the test results and demonstrates how they influence the management of the patient.
- One of the following indications is present:
  - A positive qualitative drug test for a prescription drug with abuse potential that was not prescribed.
  - An inappropriate or unexplained result on a qualitative drug test that is inconsistent with a patient's medication plan.
  - Suspicion of a specific substance or its metabolite that would be inadequately detected or not detected by qualitative drug testing (e.g., certain synthetic or semi-synthetic opioids).
  - Knowledge of a specific drug concentration is needed for clinical decision-making.

### **Limitations:**

Quantitative drug testing is limited to 18 dates of service per year. This limit is in effect for testing performed by the same or different providers for the following:

- Random testing.
- Substance use disorder management.
- Chronic opioid treatment.

Quantitative drug testing must be performed by a preferred laboratory. Quantitative drug testing performed by an out-of-network laboratory is not reimbursable.

### **Non-reimbursable quantitative drug testing includes, but is not limited to:**

- Forensic, legal, employment, or third-party testing.
- Multiple source testing.
- Testing not related to discordance between the expected and actual result of presumptive testing, except as above.
- Testing that is not medically necessary. Medical necessity must be documented in the medical record.
- Specimen validity testing, an integral part of drug testing, is considered a quality control measure and is not separately reimbursable.

### **Questions:**

**If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at **1-855-707-5818**.**