

Epithelial Cell Cytology Policy, Professional and Facility

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy may use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.*

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms. Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy.

This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UnitedHealthcare® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy enrollees. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to: legislative mandates, the physician or other provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents and/or other reimbursement, medical or drug policies. Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by UnitedHealthcare® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare® Commercial and Individual Exchange Reimbursement Policy may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (a/k/a CMS-1500), UB04 claim form or its electronic equivalent or its successor form. This policy applies to all products, all network and non-network physicians and other qualified health care professionals, outpatient facility claims, Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC), Outpatient Surgical Centers (OSC), including, but not limited to, non-network authorized and percent of charge contract physicians, other qualified health care professionals or facilities.

United Healthcare Commercial

This Reimbursement Policy applies to all UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans.

UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange

This Reimbursement Policy applies to all Individual Exchange benefit plans.



Policy					
Overview					
This policy describes the reimbursement methodology for epithelial cell cytology associated with breast cancer assessment and management.					
Reimbursement Guidelines					
NOTE: Procedure codes appearing in policy documents are included only as a general reference tool for each policy. They may not be all-inclusive.					
UnitedHealthcare will not consider reimbursement of the following epithelial cell cytology analysis procedure codes for the assessment and management of breast cancer risk. NOTE: Procedure codes in this policy are non-specific laboratory testing codes which are reimbursable for other indications, situations or conditions.					
Procedure Code(s)					
88108	88112	88172	88173	88177	

Resources	
American Medical Association, <i>Current Procedural Terminology</i> (CPT®) and associated publications and services	
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Recovery Audit Contractors (RAC)	

History	
12/1/2025	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual and Individual Family Plan (IFP) Exchange
9/22/2025	Policy Version Change Policy Language update in Reimbursement Guidelines section
9/1/2025	Policy published