



PROVIDER ALERT

Notice of Laboratory Audit of Drug Testing in Bundled Programs

November 26, 2024

Target Audience: Laboratories

Optum performed an audit of laboratories that billed for drug testing for participants in levels of care in which drug testing is bundled in the provider's rate. The cost of urine drug testing (UDT) is included in the overall rate for the following levels of care:

- Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP),
- ASAM Level 2.1 Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP),
- ASAM Level 2.5 Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHP), and
- Adult Residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs

If a laboratory submitted a claim for a patient for which there were no services other than those levels of care listed above, the claim was retroactively denied, and the drug testing payment was retracted. The laboratories should bill the OTP, IOP, PHP, or SUD residential program for their services, as drug testing is included in the providers' bundled rate.

If a laboratory determines that the ordering provider was not affiliated with one of the providers with a bundled rate, they must submit a claim appeal with supporting evidence to Optum for reprocessing. Claim appeals with evidence should be faxed to 1-844-913-0799.

The policies for UDT reimbursement in these levels of care were communicated in Provider Transmittals in 2017 for OTPs ([PT 18-17](#)) and in 2019 for IOP and PHP programs ([PT 15-19](#)).

If you have questions about the information contained in this alert, please contact Optum Maryland customer service at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team