

Lab Billing Brief

Navigating and Preventing Denials

This bulletin aims to keep you informed and equipped with the latest information on medical necessity of the tests you order to ensure accurate and efficient billing practices.

Test Info:

Syphilis Total Antibody Screen (EIA) [LAB1230501]

Prenatal Screen (OB Panel) [LAB1230094]

Syphilis Total Antibody Screen is included in the panel.

CPT code: 86780

More Info Available:

[BCBS STI Policy](#)
[Medicare STI Screening](#)

Antibody Testing for Syphilis

Corewell Health is seeing a large number of denials, especially for patients with Blue Cross or Medicare coverage, where Syphilis Antibody testing is being ordered but diagnosis coding that supports medical necessity is not present.

When Syphilis Testing is Medically Supported

✓ **Asymptomatic High-Risk Individuals** *(Other codes may be available, this is only a sample)*

- Z72.51 High risk heterosexual behavior
- Z72.52 High risk homosexual behavior
- Z72.53 High risk bisexual behavior
- Z72.89 Other problems related to lifestyle

✓ **Asymptomatic Individuals** – only when one of the following criteria is met:

- Newborn screening.
- Follow up on victim of sexual assault.
- Sexually Active Individuals UNDER the age of 18.

✓ **Symptomatic Individuals**

When Syphilis Testing Is NOT Medically Supported

Ø **Asymptomatic Individuals that do not meet an exception outlined above.**

Ø **Pregnant Women who are not High Risk***

*Medicare allows for one screening test during pregnancy with both the screening diagnosis code and supervision of pregnancy code.