
5.99.008

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	April 1, 2026
Subsection:	Miscellaneous Products	Original Policy Date:	June 7, 2012
Subject:	Diabetes Test Strips	Page:	1 of 3

Last Review Date: March 6, 2026

Diabetes Test Strips

Description

Diabetes Test Strips

Background

Blood glucose test strips contain a chemical reagent system which is read by a blood glucose meter to display the glucose concentration in whole blood. The meter and test strips have been designed, tested and proven to work together effectively to provide accurate blood glucose measurements. Blood glucose tests are used to check for diabetes, monitor the treatment of diabetes and to check for diabetes that may occur during pregnancy (gestational diabetes).

Regulatory Status

Blood Glucose Monitoring Test Strips are approved by FDA for the quantitative measurement of glucose in capillary whole blood from the finger, forearm, and palm.

Related policies

Continuous Glucose Monitors and Supplies

Policy

This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.

Diabetes test strips may be considered **medically necessary** if the conditions indicated below are met.

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Prior-Approval Requirements

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

Diabetes

AND ALL of the following must be provided

- 1) Directions for Use
- 2) Quantity required per 90 days
- 3) Reason for testing >6 times per day
- 4) **NO** dual therapy with Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) and/or Continuous Glucose Monitor supplies

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Same as above

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance

Quantity 6 test strips per day

Prior - Approval Limits

Quantity Up to 918 test strips every 90 days

Duration 6 months for gestational diabetes
1 year for other types of diabetes

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

Rationale

Summary

Blood glucose test strips contain a chemical reagent system which is read by a blood glucose meter to display the glucose concentration in whole blood. The meter and test strips have been

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designed, tested and proven to work together effectively to provide accurate blood glucose measurements. Blood glucose tests are used to check for diabetes, monitor the treatment of diabetes and to check for diabetes that may occur during pregnancy (gestational diabetes).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of diabetes test strips while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

Policy History

Date	Action
June 2012	New addition
March 2013	Annual editorial review and reference update
June 2014	Annual editorial review and reference update
September 2015	Annual review
December 2016	Annual review
	Policy code changed from 5.11.08 to 5.99.08
June 2017	Annual review
June 2018	Annual review
August 2018	Addition of no dual therapy with Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) and/or Continuous Glucose Monitor supplies
November 2018	Annual review
June 2019	Annual review
June 2020	Annual review
February 2021	Changed Pre-PA Allowance from 612/90 to 6 test strips per day to align with MDD coding. Changed the name of the policy to Diabetes Test Strips per FEP
June 2021	Annual review
March 2022	Annual review
March 2023	Annual review. Changed policy number to 5.99.008
March 2024	Annual review
March 2025	Annual review
Mach 2026	Annual review

Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on March 6, 2026 and is effective on April 1, 2026.