

## Expanded Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Carrier Screening

- New York State (NYS) Medicaid has provided coverage for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) carrier screening since 2014. However, effective October 1, 2023, the coverage criteria for SMA carrier screening has been expanded to all NYS Medicaid members who are planning to become, or already are pregnant.
- SMA is a genetic disorder that affects the nerves of the spine, with the potential to cause severe disability and death.
- A NYS Medicaid SMA carrier screening will be covered once per member per lifetime.
- A new Current Procedural Technology (CPT) code (shown in the table below) has been established for the SMA – Prenatal Carrier Testing.

CPT Code	Code Description	Benefit Limitations
81329*	SMN1 (survival of motor neuron 1, telomeric) (e.g., spinal muscular atrophy) gene analysis; dosage/deletion analysis (e.g., carrier testing), includes SMN2 (survival of motor neuron 2, centromeric) analysis, if performed.	Once per lifetime
<p>Claims will no longer pend for required documentation, as the screening is now covered for all NYS Medicaid members who are considering pregnancy or already are pregnant.</p>		

\*This Genetic Analysis Procedure code should be billed for SMA – Prenatal Carrier Testing going forward.

## Questions and Additional Information

- If you have questions, please contact your Network Account Manager, or call Provider Services at **1-888-801-1660**, Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm.
- Additional information can be found on the following websites:
  - ACOG “Carrier Screening for Genetic Conditions”: [Carrier Screening for Genetic Conditions | ACOG](#)
  - October Medicaid Update: [New York State Medicaid Update October 2023 Volume 39 Number 15 \(ny.gov\)](#)
  - 2014 Medicaid Update: [Medicaid Update September 2014 \(ny.gov\)](#)

Coverage is provided by Healthfirst PHSP, Inc.

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