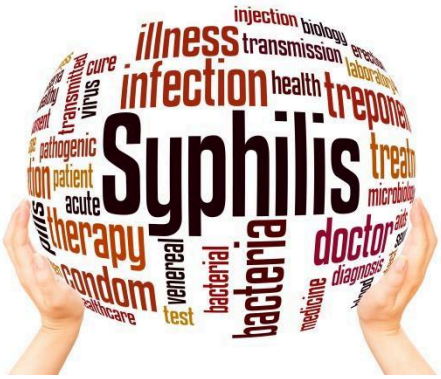
ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

Syphilis in Arizona: AHCCCS testing coverage update

Given the extremely high rates of syphilis and congenital syphilis in Arizona, the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) has been updated to reflect the importance of universal syphilis screening:

Effective October 2024:

- Health care providers shall ensure that members are tested for syphilis at least annually, beginning at age 15 years old.
- The Contractor shall: Develop and implement a process for monitoring, evaluating, and improving provider compliance to ensure that members are tested for syphilis at least annually, beginning at age 15 years old.



Testing is age based, not risk based. All members 15 years and older should be tested ***at least*** annually.

New updates are contained within AMPM 411, 420, and 430.
Updated Policies are effective October 1, 2024.

Key points regarding updated policies:

- There is no upper age limit
- Policy applies regardless of gender
- No county epidemiology rates or sexual risk factors are needed to determine if there should be testing
- Members have the ability to opt-out of testing (like any other testing)
- There are no changes to existing billing codes or reimbursement rates
- This screening is outside of existing pregnancy screening requirements, as outlined in AMPM 410