Harvard Pilgrim Health Care | TUFTS Health Plan

Point32Health companies

Payment Policy:

Laboratory: Bone Turnover Markers Testing

Effective date: Nov. 1, 2025

Applies to:

Commercial Products

☒ Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Commercial products
☐ Tufts Health Plan Commercial products

Public Plans Products

☐ Tufts Health Direct – A Massachusetts Qualified Health Plan (QHP) (a commercial product)
☐ Tufts Health Together – MassHealth MCO Plan and Accountable Care Partnership Plans
☐ Tufts Health RITogether – A Rhode Island Medicaid Plan
☐ Tufts Health One Care – A dual-eligible product

Senior Products

☐ Tufts Health Plan Senior Care Options (SCO) (a dual-eligible product)
☐ Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO/PPO (Medicare Advantage products)

Policy

Bone metabolism involves a continual, dynamic equilibrium between bone growth and resorption. Bone turnover markers (BTMs) are biochemical markers for assessment of bone formation or bone resorption. These markers may be useful in determining risk of fracture and bone loss.

Indications and/or Limitations of Coverage

Application of coverage criteria is dependent upon an individual's benefit coverage at the time of the request. Bone turnover markers are listed in Note 1.

1. For individuals with osteoporosis who are about to begin or who are actively being treated with bisphosphonates, measurement of bone turnover markers to assess an individual's compliance with bisphosphonate therapy or for fracture risk prediction **MEETS COVERAGE CRITERIA** at the following intervals:
   a. To establish baseline levels before initiating bisphosphonate treatment
   b. Every three months after initiation or change of therapy for the first year.
   c. Every two years when no medication changes have occurred.
2. For individuals with osteoporosis, measurement of bone turnover markers to monitor teriparatide treatment **DOES NOT MEET COVERAGE CRITERIA**.

The following does not meet coverage criteria due to a lack of available published scientific literature confirming that the test(s) is/are required and beneficial for the diagnosis and treatment of an individual's illness.

3. As a diagnostic test for osteoporosis, measurement of bone turnover markers **DOES NOT MEET COVERAGE CRITERIA**.
4. In the diagnosis and management of patients with other conditions associated with high rates of bone turnover, measurement of bone turnover markers **DOES NOT MEET COVERAGE CRITERIA**.

NOTES:
Note 1: Bone turnover markers include:

1. Bone formation markers
   a. Serum bone–specific alkaline phosphatase (BSAP/BALP)
   b. Serum osteocalcin (OC)
   c. Serum type 1 procollagen (C-terminal/N-terminal): C1NP or P1NP
2. Bone resorption markers

a. Urinary hydroxyproline (HYP)
b. Urinary total pyridinoline (PYD)
c. Urinary free deoxypyridinoline (DPD)
d. Urinary or serum collagen type 1 cross-linked N-telopeptide (NTX)
e. Urinary or serum collagen type 1 cross-linked C-telopeptide (CTX)
f. Bone sialoprotein (BSP)
g. Serum Tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase 5b (TRACP5b)
h. Cathepsin K

Applicable CPT/HCPCS Procedure Codes

Procedure codes appearing in policy documents are included only as a general reference tool for each policy. They may not be all-inclusive.

Coding

Code	Description
82523	Collagen cross links, any method
83500	Hydroxyproline; free
83505	Hydroxyproline; total
83937	Osteocalcin (bone gla protein)
84080	Phosphatase, alkaline; isoenzymes

Evidence-based Scientific References

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Publication History

03/01/2026: Annual review; administrative edits
09/01/2025: Policy created to support coverage guidelines, effective for dates of service beginning Nov. 1, 2025

Background and Disclaimer Information

This policy applies to the products of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Tufts Health Plan and their affiliates, as identified in the check boxes on the first page for services performed by contracted providers.

Payment is based on member benefits and eligibility on the date of service, medical necessity review, where applicable, and the provider's network participation agreement with the Plan. As every claim is unique, this policy is neither a guarantee of payment, nor a final indication of how specific claim(s) will be adjudicated. Claims payment is subject to member eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization, and utilization management requirements (when applicable), adherence to Plan policies and procedures, and claims editing logic. An authorization is not a guarantee of payment.

Point32Health reserves the right to amend a payment policy at its discretion. CPT and HCPCS codes are updated as applicable; please adhere to the most recent CPT and HCPCS coding guidelines.

We reserve the right to conduct audits on any provider and/or facility to ensure accuracy and compliance with the guidelines stated in this payment policy. If such an audit determines that a provider/facility did not comply with this payment policy, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Tufts Health Plan will expect the provider/facility to refund all payments related to noncompliance.