Importance of Correct Coding for Laboratory Orders

To ensure effective diagnosis and treatment of vaginitis and bacterial vaginosis, accurate coding in laboratory orders is essential. Incorrect ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes can lead to the denial of testing coverage by insurers, placing the financial burden on patients. Given the strict guidelines imposed by public and private payers on reimbursing laboratory tests, it is critically important that obstetrician–gynecologists use precise ICD-10-CM codes that represent the highest degree of specificity. It is also important that medical coders recognize when the Excludes1 and Excludes2 notes prevent the codes from being recognized by payers.

When ordering laboratory testing for vaginitis, obstetrician–gynecologists should consider the following codes as the reason for the testing:

Diagnosis Codes for Vaginitis and the Most Common Causes of Vaginitis	
B37.31	Acute candidiasis of vulva and vagina
B37.32	Chronic candidiasis of vulva and vagina
N76.0	Acute vaginitis
N76.1	Subacute and chronic vaginitis
N76.2	Acute vulvitis
N76.3	Subacute and chronic vulvitis
N77.1	Vaginitis, vulvitis, and vulvovaginitis in diseases classified elsewhere

Diagnosis Codes for Symptoms That Frequently Accompany a Diagnosis of Vaginitis	
L29.2	Pruritis vulvae
L29.3	Anogenital pruritis, unspecified
N89.8	Other specified noninflammatory disorders of vagina (eg, leukorrhea)

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