Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

Applies to all products administered or underwritten by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana and its subsidiary, HMO Louisiana, Inc. (collectively referred to as the “Company”), unless otherwise provided in the applicable contract. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

Note: Gene Expression Profiling for Cutaneous Melanoma is addressed separately in medical policy 00622.

Note: Germline Genetic Testing for Pancreatic Cancer Susceptibility Gene is addressed separately in medical policy 00706.

When Services Are Eligible for Coverage
Coverage for eligible medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products may be provided only if:

• Benefits are available in the member’s contract/certificate, and
• Medical necessity criteria and guidelines are met.

Based on review of available data, the Company may consider once per lifetime germline testing for p16/CDKN2A variant in individuals considered at high risk for cutaneous melanoma to be eligible for coverage.**

Patient Selection Criteria
The Company may consider once per lifetime germline testing for CDKN2A (p16) variant in individuals considered at high risk for cutaneous melanoma when ANY of the following criteria are met:

• An affected individual diagnosed with 3 or more invasive cutaneous melanomas; OR
• An affected individual or close family relative diagnosed with a combination of invasive melanoma, pancreatic cancer, and/or astrocytoma (when testing of affected patient is not available); OR
• An affected individual with invasive cutaneous melanoma who has a first-degree relative diagnosed with pancreatic cancer (see medical policy 00706).
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

Note:
Individuals eligible for CDKN2A testing with family history of multiple invasive cutaneous melanomas, and pancreatic, renal and/or breast cancer, astrocytoma, uveal melanoma, and/or mesothelioma may be considered for once per lifetime germline mutation or polymorphism testing also for other genes predisposing to melanoma (e.g., CDK4, MC1R, BRCA2, BAP1 [especially for uveal melanoma], TERT, MITF, PTEN). In this situation and when applicable, procedure code representing small panel (e.g., 81479) should be reported rather than multiple codes representing individual or sequential gene testing.

When known, testing of an unaffected (asymptomatic) individual should focus on the pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant found in the affected patient.

When Services Are Considered Investigational
Coverage is not available for investigational medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products.

Based on review of available data, the Company considers genetic testing for genes associated with familial cutaneous malignant melanoma (CMM) or associated with susceptibility to cutaneous malignant melanoma (CMM) in all other situations to be investigational.*

Policy Guidelines
Genetics Nomenclature Update
The Human Genome Variation Society nomenclature is used to report information on variants found in DNA and serves as an international standard in DNA diagnostics. It is being implemented for genetic testing medical evidence review updates starting in 2017 (see Table PG1). The Society’s nomenclature is recommended by the Human Variome Project, the Human Genome Organization, and by the Human Genome Variation Society itself.

The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the Association for Molecular Pathology standards and guidelines for interpretation of sequence variants represent expert opinion from both organizations, in addition to the College of American Pathologists. These recommendations primarily apply to genetic tests used in clinical laboratories, including genotyping, single genes, panels, exomes, and genomes. Table PG2 shows the recommended standard
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy #  00206
Original Effective Date:  09/20/2006
Current Effective Date:  01/01/2023

terminology—“pathogenic,” “likely pathogenic,” “uncertain significance,” “likely benign,” and “benign”—to describe variants identified that cause Mendelian disorders.

Table PG1. Nomenclature to Report on Variants Found in DNA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mutation</td>
<td>Disease-associated variant</td>
<td>Disease-associated change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variant</td>
<td>Change in the DNA sequence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familial variant</td>
<td>Disease-associated variant identified in a proband for use in subsequent targeted genetic testing in first-degree relatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table PG2. ACMG-AMP Standards and Guidelines for Variant Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant Classification</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathogenic</td>
<td>Disease-causing change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely pathogenic</td>
<td>Likely disease-causing change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variant of uncertain significance</td>
<td>Change in DNA sequence with uncertain effects on disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely benign</td>
<td>Likely benign change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benign</td>
<td>Benign change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACMG: American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics; AMP: Association for Molecular Pathology.

Genetic Counseling
Experts recommend formal genetic counseling for patients who are at risk for inherited disorders and who wish to undergo genetic testing. Interpreting the results of genetic tests and understanding risk factors can be difficult for some patients; genetic counseling helps individuals understand the impact of genetic testing, including the possible effects the test results could have on the individual or their family members. It should be noted that genetic counseling may alter the utilization of
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

Genetic testing substantially and may reduce inappropriate testing; further, genetic counseling should be performed by an individual with experience and expertise in genetic medicine and genetic testing methods.

**Background/Overview**

**Genetics of Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma**

A genetic predisposition to cutaneous malignant melanoma is suspected in specific clinical situations: (1) melanoma has been diagnosed in multiple family members; (2) multiple primary melanomas have been identified in a single patient; and (3) early age of onset. A positive family history of melanoma is the most significant risk factor; it is estimated that approximately 10% of melanoma cases report a first- or second-degree relative with melanoma. Although some of the familial risk may be related to shared environmental factors, 3 principal genes involved in cutaneous malignant melanoma susceptibility have been identified. Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2A (CDKN2A), located on chromosome 9p21, encodes proteins that act as tumor suppressors. Variants in this gene can alter the tumor suppressor function. The second gene, cyclin-dependent kinase 4 (CDK4), is an oncogene located on chromosome 12q13 and has been identified in about 6 families worldwide. A third gene, not fully characterized, maps to chromosome 1p22. The incidence of CDKN2A disease-associated variants in the general population is very low. For example, it is estimated that in Queensland, Australia, an area with a high incidence of melanoma, only 0.2% of all patients with melanoma will harbor a CDKN2A disease-associated variant. Variants are also infrequent in those with an early age of onset or those with multiple primary melanomas. However, the incidence of CDKN2A disease-associated variants increases with a positive family history; CDKN2A disease-associated variants will be found in 5% of families with first-degree relatives, rising to 20% to 40% in patients with 3 or more affected first-degree relatives. Variant detection rates of the CDKN2A gene are generally estimated to be 20% to 25% in hereditary cutaneous malignant melanoma but can vary between 2% and 50%, depending on the family history and population studied. Validated clinical risk prediction tools to assess the probability that an affected individual carries a germline CDKN2A disease-associated variant are available.

Familial cutaneous malignant melanoma has been described in families in which either 2 first-degree relatives are diagnosed with melanoma or a family with 3 melanoma patients, irrespective of the degree of relationship. Others have defined familial cutaneous malignant melanoma as having at
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

At least 3 (first-, second-, or third-degree) affected members or 2 affected family members in which at least 1 was diagnosed before age 50 years, or pancreatic cancer occurred in a first- or second-degree relative or 1 member had multiple primary melanomas. Other malignancies associated with familial cutaneous malignant melanoma, specifically those associated with CDKN2A variants, have been described. The most pronounced associated malignancy is pancreatic cancer. Other associated malignancies include other gastrointestinal malignancies, breast cancer, brain cancer, lymphoproliferative malignancies, and lung cancer. It is also important to recognize that other cancer susceptibility genes may be involved in these families. In particular, germline BRCA2 gene variants have been described in families with melanoma and breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, pancreatic cancer, or prostate cancer.

Some common allele(s) are associated with increased susceptibility to cutaneous malignant melanoma but have low-to-moderate penetrance. One gene of moderate penetrance is the melanocortin 1 receptor gene (MC1R). Variants in this gene are relatively common and have low penetrance for cutaneous malignant melanoma. This gene is associated with fair complexion, freckles, and red hair, all risk factors for cutaneous malignant melanoma. Variants in MC1R also modify the cutaneous malignant melanoma risk in families with CDKN2A variants.

Cutaneous malignant melanoma can occur either with or without a family history of multiple dysplastic nevi. Families with both cutaneous malignant melanoma and multiple dysplastic nevi have been referred to as having familial atypical multiple mole and melanoma syndrome. This syndrome is difficult to define because there is no agreement on a standard phenotype, and dysplastic nevi occur in up to 50% of the general population. Atypical or dysplastic nevi are associated with an increased risk for cutaneous malignant melanoma. Initially, the phenotypes of atypical nevi and cutaneous malignant melanoma were thought to co-segregate in familial atypical multiple mole and melanoma syndrome families, leading to the assumption that a single genetic factor was responsible. However, it was subsequently shown that, in families with CDKN2A variants, some family members with multiple atypical nevi were noncarriers of the CDKN2A familial variant. Thus, the nevus phenotype cannot be used to distinguish carriers from noncarriers of cutaneous malignant melanoma susceptibility in these families.

In 2012, Ward et al reviewed the literature on germline melanoma susceptibility and concluded that in addition to the 2 rare, high-penetrance variants (CDKN2A and CDK4), there are potentially many single nucleotide polymorphisms which have small effects and low penetrance.
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

Management
No widely accepted guidelines for the management of families with hereditary risk of melanoma exist. In 2012, Badenas et al suggested several parameters to guide genetic testing for melanoma: in countries with a low to medium incidence of melanoma, genetic testing should be offered to families with 2 cases of melanoma or to an individual with 2 primary melanomas (the rule of 2); in countries with a high incidence of melanoma, genetic testing should be offered to families with 3 cases of melanoma, or to an individual with 3 primary melanomas (the rule of 3). In 2017, Delaunay et al suggested a modification to the recommendations by Badenas et al (2012). In countries with a low to medium incidence of melanoma, Delaunay et al (2017) proposed that the rule of 2 should guide genetic testing only if there is an individual with melanoma before the age of 40, otherwise the rule of 3 should apply.

In general, individuals with increased risk of melanoma are educated on prevention strategies such as reducing sun exposure and on skin examination procedures.

FDA or Other Governmental Regulatory Approval
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Clinical laboratories may develop and validate tests in-house and market them as a laboratory service; laboratory-developed tests must meet the general regulatory standards of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). Melaris® ‡ (Myriad Genetics) and other CDKN2A tests are available under the auspices of the CLIA. Laboratories that offer laboratory-developed tests must be licensed by the CLIA for high-complexity testing. To date, the U.S. FDA has chosen not to require any regulatory review of this test.

Rationale/Source
This medical policy was developed through consideration of peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval status, nationally accepted standards of medical practice and accepted standards of medical practice in this community, technology evaluation centers, reference to federal regulations, other plan medical policies, and accredited national guidelines.

Cutaneous melanoma is the third most common type of skin cancer, but the most lethal. Some cases of cutaneous malignant melanoma are familial. Potential genetic markers for this disease are being
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy #  00206  
Original Effective Date:  09/20/2006  
Current Effective Date:  01/01/2023

evaluated in affected individuals with a family history of the disease and in unaffected individuals in a high-risk family.

For individuals who have cutaneous malignant melanoma and a family history of this disease who receive genetic testing for genes associated with familial cutaneous malignant melanoma, the evidence includes genetic association studies measuring prevalence of variants in certain genes among those with cutaneous malignant melanoma. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, test accuracy, and test validity. Limitations with clinical validity include difficulties with variant interpretations, variable penetrance of a given variant, and residual risk with a benign variant. Currently, management of melanoma patients, which involves surveillance and education on sun avoidance behaviors, does not change based on genetic variants identified in genes associated with familial cutaneous malignant melanoma; therefore, clinical utility is lacking. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who are asymptomatic and in a family at high-risk of developing cutaneous malignant melanoma who receive genetic testing for genes associated with familial cutaneous malignant melanoma, the evidence includes genetic association studies correlating variants in certain genes and the risk of developing cutaneous malignant melanoma. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, test accuracy, and test validity. Limitations with clinical validity include difficulties with variant interpretations, variable penetrance of a given variant, and residual risk with a benign variant. Currently, management of patients considered high-risk for cutaneous malignant melanoma focuses on the reduction of sun exposure, use of sunscreens, vigilant cutaneous surveillance of pigmented lesions, and prompt biopsy of suspicious lesions. It is unclear how genetic testing for variants associated with increased risk of cutaneous malignant melanoma would alter these management recommendations; therefore, clinical utility is lacking. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Supplemental Information

Practice Guidelines and Position Statements
Guidelines or position statements will be considered for inclusion in ‘Supplemental Information’ if they were issued by, or jointly by, a US professional society, an international society with US representation, or National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Priority will be given
to guidelines that are informed by a systematic review, include strength of evidence ratings, and include a description of management of conflict of interest.

**American Society of Clinical Oncology**

In an American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) publication, Kefford et al (2002) noted that the sensitivity and specificity of tests for \textit{CDKN2A} variants are not fully known. Because interpreting genetic tests is difficult and because test results do not alter patient management, ASCO recommended that \textit{CDKN2A} genetic testing should be performed only in clinical trials, for several reasons, including a low likelihood of finding disease-associated variants in known melanoma susceptibility genes, uncertainty about the functionality and phenotypic expression of the trait among disease-associated variant carriers, and lack of proven melanoma prevention and surveillance strategies. Additionally, it was noted that all individuals with risk factors for cutaneous melanoma should follow programs of sun protection and skin surveillance, not just those considered high-risk due to family history.

In 2003, and 2010, the ASCO issued policy statements on genetic and genomic testing for cancer susceptibility. Both statements recommended that, outside of a research setting, genetic testing for cancer susceptibility should only be offered when the following 3 criteria are met: (1) the individual being tested has a personal or family history suggestive of an underlying hereditary component; (2) the genetic test can be adequately interpreted; and (3) test results will guide diagnosis and management.

In 2010, the ASCO updated its policy statement on genetic and genomic testing for cancer susceptibility. The ASCO recommended that “genetic tests with uncertain clinical utility, including genomic risk assessment, be administered in the context of clinical trials.”

In 2015, the ASCO commissioned another update to its policy statement on genetic and genomic testing for cancer susceptibility. The ASCO "affirms that it is sufficient for cancer risk assessment to evaluate genes of established clinical utility that are suggested by the patient's personal and/or family history.”

**American Academy of Dermatology**

In 2019, the American Academy of Dermatology published guidelines for the care and management of primary cutaneous melanoma. Referral for genetic counseling and possible germline genetic
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

testing for select patients with cutaneous melanoma was recommended for consideration with a level IIIC grade of evidence. The Work Group explained that "there is no strong evidence that genetic evaluation is either harmful or helpful." Criteria for cancer risk genetic counseling with possible multigene testing for patients with cutaneous melanoma include:

- A family history of invasive cutaneous melanoma or pancreatic cancer (≥3 affected members on 1 side of the family)
- Multiple primary invasive cutaneous melanomas (≥3), including 1 early-onset tumor (at age <45 years)
- A family history of mesothelioma, meningioma, and/or uveal melanoma and ≥1 melanocytic BAP1-mutated atypical intradermal tumor (MBAIT)
- ≥2 MBAITs

These 2019 guidelines are similar to standards previously established by the International Melanoma Genetics Consortium in 2009.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network
Current (v.1.2021) National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines for cutaneous melanoma include the following follow-up recommendations:

- “Consider genetic counseling referral for p16/CDKN2A mutation [variant] testing in the presence of 3 or more invasive melanomas, or a mix of invasive melanoma, pancreatic cancer, and/or astrocytoma diagnoses in an individual or family."
- "Multigene panel testing that includes CDKN2A is also recommended for patients with invasive cutaneous melanoma who have a first-degree relative diagnosed with pancreatic cancer."
- "Testing for other genes that can harbor melanoma-predisposing mutations [e.g., MC1R, CDK4, TERT, MITF, PTEN, BRCA2, and BAP1] may be warranted."

Current (v.2.2021) NCCN guidelines for genetic/familial high-risk assessment in breast, ovarian, and pancreatic cancer state that general melanoma risk management (eg, annual full-body skin examination, minimizing ultraviolet light exposure) is appropriate for CDKN2A mutation carriers.

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations
Not applicable.
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

Medicare National Coverage
There is no national coverage determination. In the absence of a national coverage determination, coverage decisions are left to the discretion of local Medicare carriers.

Ongoing and Unpublished Clinical Trials
Some currently unpublished trials that might influence this review are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Key Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCT No.</th>
<th>Trial Name</th>
<th>Planned Enrollment</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ongoing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT00040352</td>
<td>Clinical, Laboratory, and Epidemiologic Characterization of Individuals and Families at High Risk of Melanoma</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>NR (recruiting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT00849407</td>
<td>Genetic Risk Factors and Acquired Oncogenic Mutations of Melanoma</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Dec 2020 (recruiting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT00450593</td>
<td>Studies of Familial Melanoma</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>Dec 2020 (unknown)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT00445783</td>
<td>Melanoma Family Case-Control Study Protocol</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>Dec 2020 (unknown)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT00591500</td>
<td>A Model for Genetic Susceptibility: Melanoma</td>
<td>4082</td>
<td>Jul 2022 (ongoing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT03174574</td>
<td>Two Cancers, One Gene</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Jul 2021 (recruiting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unpublished</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT00339222</td>
<td>Family Study of Melanoma in Italy</td>
<td>1708</td>
<td>Jun 2020 (completed)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy #  00206
Original Effective Date:  09/20/2006
Current Effective Date:  01/01/2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCT: national clinical trial; NR: not reported.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a Denotes industry-sponsored or cosponsored trial.</td>
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</table>

References


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Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023


Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023


Policy History
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

09/06/2006 Medical Director review
09/20/2006 Medical Policy Committee approval
10/01/2008 Medical Director review
10/22/2008 Medical Policy Committee approval. No change to coverage eligibility.
10/01/2009 Medical Policy Committee review
10/14/2009 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage eligibility.
10/14/2010 Medical Policy Committee review
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

10/06/2011 Medical Policy Committee review
10/19/2011 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added “familial” to the policy title. Replaced “hereditary” with “familial” in the investigational statement and throughout the policy.
10/11/2012 Medical Policy Committee review
10/31/2012 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
10/03/2013 Medical Policy Committee review
10/16/2013 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
11/06/2014 Medical Policy Committee review
08/03/2015 Coding update: ICD10 Diagnosis code section added; ICD9 Procedure code section removed.
10/29/2015 Medical Policy Committee review
11/16/2015 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
11/03/2016 Medical Policy Committee review
01/01/2017 Coding update: Removing ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes
11/02/2017 Medical Policy Committee review
11/08/2018 Medical Policy Committee review
11/07/2019 Medical Policy Committee review
11/05/2020 Medical Policy Committee review
12/11/2020 Coding update
11/04/2021 Medical Policy Committee review
10/06/2022 Medical Policy Committee review
10/11/2022 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage went from investigational to eligible with criteria. Senate bill review.

Next Scheduled Review Date: 10/2023
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

**Coding**

The five character codes included in the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Medical Policy Coverage Guidelines are obtained from Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), copyright 2021 by the American Medical Association (AMA). CPT is developed by the AMA as a listing of descriptive terms and five character identifying codes and modifiers for reporting medical services and procedures performed by physician.

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Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy #  00206  
Original Effective Date:  09/20/2006  
Current Effective Date:  01/01/2023

Codes used to identify services associated with this policy may include (but may not be limited to) the following:

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<th>Code Type</th>
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<td>Code added eff 1/1/2021: 81529</td>
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<td>Add codes effective 1/1/2023: 81167, 81216, 81217, 81345, 81479, 81479,</td>
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<td>D22.111-D22.122, D23.111-D23.122</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Add codes effective 1/1/2023: Z12.83, Z80.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Investigational – A medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is Investigational if the effectiveness has not been clearly tested and it has not been incorporated into standard medical practice. Any determination we make that a medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is Investigational will be based on a consideration of the following:

A. Whether the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product can be lawfully marketed without approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and whether such approval has been granted at the time the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is sought to be furnished; or

B. Whether the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product requires further studies or clinical trials to determine its maximum tolerated dose, toxicity, safety, effectiveness, or effectiveness as compared with the standard means of treatment or diagnosis, must improve health outcomes, according to the consensus of opinion among experts as shown by reliable evidence, including:

1. Consultation with technology evaluation center(s);
2. Credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community; or
3. Reference to federal regulations.

**Medically Necessary (or “Medical Necessity”) - Health care services, treatment, procedures, equipment, drugs, devices, items or supplies that a Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment,
Genetic Testing for Familial Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma

Policy # 00206  
Original Effective Date: 09/20/2006  
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2023

would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are:

A. In accordance with nationally accepted standards of medical practice;
B. Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, level of care, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's illness, injury or disease; and
C. Not primarily for the personal comfort or convenience of the patient, physician or other health care provider, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury or disease.

For these purposes, “nationally accepted standards of medical practice” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

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NOTICE: If the Patient’s health insurance contract contains language that differs from the BCBSLA Medical Policy definition noted above, the definition in the health insurance contract will be relied upon for specific coverage determinations.

NOTICE: Medical Policies are scientific based opinions, provided solely for coverage and informational purposes. Medical Policies should not be construed to suggest that the Company recommends, advocates, requires, encourages, or discourages any particular treatment, procedure, or service, or any particular course of treatment, procedure, or service.