

Payment Policy | Specimen Provenance Error Testing



EFFECTIVE DATE: 02|21|2011
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 10|04|2023

OVERVIEW

The “Know Error®” system is a DNA test used to verify the identity of biopsy specimens. The Know Error® test is thought to prevent misidentification errors in the biopsy evaluation process.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

The Know Error® system is considered to be part of the Hospital Quality Control for specimens; therefore, use of this test is not covered and considered provider liability.

COVERAGE

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable laboratory testing medically necessary benefits/coverage.

BACKGROUND

Advertised as bringing a new level of diagnostic accuracy and patient safety to the biopsy evaluation process, and reducing the incidence of "Specimen Provenance Complications", the “Know Error®” system is a DNA test used to verify the identity of biopsy specimens. The Know Error® test is thought to prevent misidentification errors in the biopsy evaluation process.

Prior to the biopsy procedure a reference sample of the patient's DNA is taken and sent to an independent forensic lab. A biopsy kit with bar-coded specimen containers is sent to the surgeon who places the specimen in them and returns them to the pathology lab for evaluation. If the biopsy report is positive, the forensic lab compares the biopsy tissue to the reference sample to absolutely confirm the patient's identity. BCBSRI considers this test to be part of the Hospital Quality Control for specimens and use of this test is considered to be provider liability.

CODING

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Tests should be reported with the unlisted code (84999), following the unlisted process as there are no specific CPT codes.

84999 Unlisted chemistry procedures

RELATED POLICIES

Unlisted Procedures

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, December 2023
Provider Update, September 2020
Provider Update, April 2018
Provider Update, May 2017
Provider Update, March 2012

REFERENCES

None

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