

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05|01|2024

POLICY LAST REVIEWED: 02|21|2024

OVERVIEW

Genetic tests can perform a host of functions, such as providing a guided intervention in both symptomatic or asymptomatic people, identifying people at risk for future disorders, predicting the prognosis of a diagnosed disease, and predicting the appropriate treatment response.

This policy indicates those genetic testing services:

- for which prior authorization is required for Medicare Advantage Plans or recommended for Commercial Products via the online authorization tool, or
- that are not medically necessary, or
- not covered, or
- covered

For information regarding Proprietary Laboratory Analyses Codes (PLA) codes and Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses (MAAA) codes, please see the Proprietary Laboratory Analyses (PLA) and Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses (MAAA) Policy.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Generally, InterQual criteria is used to determine medical necessity for a majority of genetic testing, and is found in the online authorization tool:

<https://www.bcbsri.com/BCBSRIWeb/Login.do?redirectTo=/providers/preauth/preauthProviderOverview.jsp>

NOTE REGARDING PANEL TESTING: Panel tests are subject to additional criteria. Please refer to the Policy Statement and Prior Authorization sections below for specific information regarding panel testing before utilizing the medical necessity criteria set forth below.

The following general criteria is used in the online authorization tool depending on the category of screening, when separate criteria is not identified for the specific test being requested.

Carrier screening (preconception or prenatal testing) for genetic diseases is considered medically when the following criteria are met:

- One or both individuals have a first- or second-degree relative (see definitions below) who is affected;
- One individual is known to be a carrier;
- One or both individuals are members of a population known to have a carrier rate that exceeds a threshold considered appropriate for testing for a particular condition; AND
- Previous carrier screening or individual targeted gene testing for the gene variant(s) of interest has not been performed.

First-degree relatives include a biological parent, brother, sister, or child.

Second-degree relatives include a biologic grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandchildren, and half-sibling.

Genetic screening or testing for genetic or hereditary conditions is considered medically necessary when the diagnostic test of the individual's germline will benefit the individual and one of the following criteria is met:

- To confirm a suspected diagnosis in a patient with signs and/or symptoms of the condition
- To identify a causative etiology for a clinical syndrome, for which there are multiple possible underlying conditions
- Testing an asymptomatic individual to determine future risk of disease

Genetic testing for cancer is considered medically necessary when one of the following criteria is met:

- Testing an asymptomatic patient to determine future risk of cancer
- Therapeutic testing of cancer cells from an affected individual to benefit the individual by directing targeted treatment based on specific somatic ~~mutations~~ variants.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

For those tests in which prior authorization is indicated in the attached code grid, prior authorization is required for Medicare Advantage Plans and recommended for Commercial Products.

Requests for authorization of genetic testing should be submitted via the BCBSRI online prior authorization tool, which is available to BCBSRI-participating providers. All other providers may fax a prior authorization request to Utilization Management at (401) 272-8885.

If a genetic test is not found in the online authorization tool, please fax the request to Utilization Management at (401) 272-8885.

Panel testing: prior authorization is required for each component and/or gene/gene variant of panel testing when the panel is represented by multiple CPT codes. Each individual CPT code must be entered into and processed through the online authorization tool independently.

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

For services in which prior authorization is indicated, genetic testing may be considered medically necessary when the criteria in the online authorization tool and/or BCBSRI's Policy has been met. Please see Related Policies below for additional policies indicating criteria and coverage requirements for certain genetic testing.

Genetic testing services are not covered for Medicare Advantage Plans and not medically necessary for Commercial Products when:

- there is insufficient clinical evidence or strength of recommendation,
- results would not reasonably be used in management of a patient,
- services are unlikely to impact therapeutic decision-making in the clinical management of the patient.

There is not enough research to show that genetic panels can lead to better health outcomes for patients. When there is not enough research to show that a gene and/or gene variant alone in a genetic panel test may be useful for guiding patient management and to improve net health outcomes, then the entire genetic panel test is considered not covered for Medicare Advantage Plans and not medically necessary for Commercial Products.

For coverage of any panel test filed with a specific individual CPT code, please refer to the code grid in this policy and/or the Proprietary Laboratory Analyses (PLA) and Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses (MAAA) policy.

For some genetic tests, medical necessity, and coverage of the test, is determined by the diagnosis code submitted with the claim. Please refer to the codes on the attached grid and the information in the Comments column for diagnosis coding or for a Related Policy if applicable.

Laboratories are not allowed to obtain clinical authorization or participate in the authorization process on behalf of the ordering physician. Only the ordering physician shall be involved in the authorization, appeal or other administrative processes related to prior authorization/medical necessity.

In no circumstance shall a laboratory or a physician/provider use a representative of a laboratory or anyone with a relationship to a laboratory and/or a third party to obtain authorization on behalf of the ordering physician, to facilitate any portion of the authorization process or any subsequent appeal of a claim where the authorization process was not followed and/or a denial for clinical appropriateness was issued, including any element of the preparation of necessary documentation of clinical appropriateness. If a laboratory or a third party is found to be supporting any portion of the authorization process, BCBSRI will deem the action a violation of this policy and severe action will be taken up to and including termination from the BCBSRI provider network. If a laboratory provides a laboratory service that has not been authorized, the service will be denied as the financial liability of the participating laboratory and may not be billed to the member.”

Commercial Products

Some genetic testing services are not covered and a contract exclusion for any self-funded group that has excluded the expanded coverage of biomarker testing related to the state mandate, R.I.G.L. §27-19-81 described in the Biomarker Testing Mandate policy. For these groups, a list of which genetic testing services are covered with prior authorization, are not medically necessary or are not covered because they are a contract exclusion can be found in the Coding section of the Genetic Testing Services and Proprietary Laboratory Analyses policies. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet to determine whether the member’s plan has customized benefit coverage. Please refer to the list of Related Policies for more information.

COVERAGE

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage, or Subscriber Agreement for applicable genetic testing benefits/coverage and not medically necessary/not covered benefits/coverage.

BACKGROUND

Molecular Pathology

Molecular pathology procedures are medical laboratory procedures involving the analyses of nucleic acid (ie, DNA, RNA) to detect variants in genes that may be indicative of germline (eg, constitutional disorders) or somatic (eg, neoplasia) conditions, or to test for histocompatibility antigens (eg, HLA). Code selection is typically based on the specific gene(s) that is being analyzed. Genes are described using Human Genome Organization (HUGO) approved gene names.

Genomic Sequencing Procedures and Other Molecular Multianalyte Assays

Genomic sequencing procedures (GSPs) and other molecular multianalyte assays are DNA and/or RNA sequence analysis methods that simultaneously assay multiple genes or genetic regions relevant to a clinical situation. They may target specific combinations of genes or genetic material, or they may assay the exome or genome. The technology typically used for genomic sequencing is massively parallel sequencing (MPS), (eg, next-generation sequencing [NGS]) although other technologies may be employed. GSPs are performed on nucleic acids from germline or neoplastic samples.

A genetic panel is defined as a test that simultaneously evaluates multiple genes, as opposed to sequential testing of individual genes. This includes panels performed by next-generation sequencing (NGS), massive parallel sequencing, and chromosomal microarray analysis. The definition of a panel will not include panels that report on gene expression profiling, which generally do not directly evaluate genetic variants.

New genetic technology, such as NGS and chromosomal microarray, has led to the ability to examine many genes simultaneously. This in turn has resulted in a proliferation of genetic panels. Panels using next-generation technology are currently widely available, covering a broad range of conditions related to inherited disorders, cancer, and reproductive testing. These panels are intuitively attractive to use in clinical care because they can analyze multiple genes more quickly and may lead to greater efficiency in the workup of genetic disorders. It is also possible that newer technology can be performed more cheaply than direct sequencing, although this may not be true in all cases.

Newer sequencing techniques were initially associated with higher error rates than direct sequencing. While there are limited published data directly comparing the accuracy of NGS with direct sequencing, several publications have reported that the concordance between NGS and Sanger sequencing is greater than 99% for cancer susceptibility testing, inherited disorders, and hereditary hearing loss. Another potential pitfall is the easy availability of a multitude of genetic information, much of which has uncertain clinical consequences. Variants of uncertain significance are found commonly and in greater numbers with NGS than with direct sequencing.

The intended use for these panels is variable, for example, for the diagnosis of hereditary disorders, a clinical diagnosis may be already established, and genetic testing is performed to determine whether this is a hereditary condition, and/or to determine the specific variant present. In other cases, there is a clinical syndrome (phenotype) with a broad number of potential diagnoses, and genetic testing is used to make a specific diagnosis. For cancer panels, there are also different intended uses. Some panels may be intended to determine whether a known cancer is part of a hereditary cancer syndrome. Other panels may include somatic variants in a tumor biopsy specimen that may help identify a cancer type or subtype and/or help select best treatment.

There is no standardization to the makeup of genetic panels. Panel composition is variable, and different commercial products for the same condition may test a different set of genes. The makeup of the panels is determined by the specific lab that developed the test. In addition, the composition of any individual panel is likely to change over time, as new variants are discovered and added to existing panels.

Genetic panels using next-generation technology or chromosomal microarray analysis are available for many clinical conditions. The major advantage of panels is the ability to analyze many genes simultaneously, potentially improving the breadth and efficiency of the genetic workup. A potential disadvantage of panels is that they provide a large amount of ancillary information whose significance may be uncertain. Limited published evidence has reported that the analytic validity of panels approaches that of direct sequencing. The clinical validity and clinical utility of panels are condition-specific. The clinical validity of panels will reflect the clinical validity of the underlying individual variants. The clinical utility of panels will depend on the context in which they are used, ie, whether the advantages of panel testing outweigh the disadvantages for the specific condition under consideration.

For individuals who have a personal and/or family history suggesting an inherited cancer syndrome who receive expanded gene panel testing, the evidence includes reports describing the diagnostic yield of expanded gene panels. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, and test validity. Studies of gene panel testing for genetic cancer risk assessment have reported primarily on the frequency with which variants are identified. The rates of variants of uncertain significance for gene panels are significant and increase in proportion with panel size, reaching nearly 50% for large gene panels. Variants included in these panels are associated with varying levels of risk of developing cancer. Published data on clinical utility are lacking, and it is unknown whether the use of these panels improves health outcomes. Only some variants included on panels are associated with a high risk of developing a well-defined cancer syndrome for which there are established clinical management guidelines. Many expanded panels include genetic variants considered to be of moderate or low penetrance, and clinical management recommendations for these genes are not well-defined. The lack of clinical management pathways for variants of uncertain clinical significance increases the potential for harm. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

Definitions

Genetic Testing

Genetic testing involves the analysis of chromosomes, DNA, RNA, genes, or gene products to detect inherited (germline) or noninherited (somatic) genetic variants related to disease or health.

Carrier Testing

A carrier of a genetic disorder has 1 abnormal allele for a disorder. When associated with an autosomal recessive or X-linked disorder, carriers of the causative variant are typically unaffected. When associated with an autosomal dominant disorder, the person has 1 normal copy of the gene and 1 mutated copy of the gene; such a person may be affected with the disorder, may be unaffected but at high risk of developing the disease later in life, or may remain unaffected because of the sex-limited nature of the disease.

Carrier testing may be offered to people: (a) who have family members with a genetic condition; (b) who have family members who are identified carriers; and (c) who are members of ethnic or racial groups known to have a higher carrier rate for a particular condition.

Germline Variants

Germline variants are present in the DNA of every cell of the body, from the moment of conception. They include cells in the gonads (testes or ova) and could, therefore, be passed on to offspring.

Somatic Variants

Somatic variations occur with the passage of time and are restricted to a specific cell or cells derived from it. If these variants are limited to cells that are not in the gonads, they will not be passed on to offspring.

Pharmacogenomics

Pharmacogenomics studies how a person's genetic makeup affects his or her body's response to drugs.

Limitations of Genetic Testing

- The testing methods may not detect all variants that may occur in a gene
- Genetic testing may identify variants of uncertain significance
- Genetic testing may not necessarily determine the clinical outcome
- Different genes can cause the same disease (genetic heterogeneity)
- A variant in a gene may cause different phenotypes (phenotypic heterogeneity)
- Some disease-causing genes may not yet be identified
- Genetic testing is subject to laboratory error

There are several tests with a lack of demonstrated clinical utility based on extremely limited published data and/or insufficient evidence demonstrating the clinical validity of the test. In these cases, the evidence is insufficient to determine the effect of the technologies on health outcomes and are therefore considered not medically necessary.

CODING

See the attached grid for Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products coverage of Genetic Testing Codes and indication of which codes may be covered, medically necessary if criteria are met, not medically necessary or not covered.

[Genetic Testing Codes and Coverage Effective 5.1.2024](#)

RELATED POLICIES

Assays of Genetic Expression in Tumor Tissue as a Technique to Determine Prognosis in Patients with Breast Cancer

Biomarker Testing Mandate

CA-125

Circulating Tumor DNA and Circulating Tumor Cells for Cancer Management (Liquid Biopsy)
Envisia for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
Evaluation of Biomarkers for Alzheimer Disease
Fecal Calprotectin Testing
Gene Expression Profile Testing and Circulating Tumor DNA Testing for Predicting Recurrence in Colon Cancer
Gene Expression Profiling and Protein Biomarkers for Prostate Cancer Management
Gene Expression Profiling for Cutaneous Melanoma
Genetic and Protein Biomarkers for the Diagnosis and Cancer Risk Assessment of Prostate Cancer
Genetic Testing for Diagnosis and Management of Mental Health Conditions
Genetic Testing for Epilepsy
Genetic Testing for Mitochondrial Disorders
Genomic Sequence Analysis Panels in the Treatment of Hematolymphoid Diseases
Genomic Sequence Analysis Panels in the Treatment of Solid Organ Neoplasms
Homocysteine Testing in the Screening and Diagnosis and Management of Cardiovascular Disease
Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Testing Mandate
Immune Cell Function Assay
In Vitro Chemosensitivity and Chemosensitivity Assays
Laboratory Testing Investigational Services
Laboratory Tests Post Transplant and for Heart Failure
Lyme Disease Diagnosis and Treatment Mandate
Measurement of Lipoprotein-Associated Phospholipase A2 in the Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk
Medicare Advantage Plans National and Local Coverage Determinations
Minimal Residual Disease Testing for Cancer
Molecular Markers in Fine Needle Aspiration of the Thyroid
Molecular Testing for the Management of Pancreatic Cysts, Barrett Esophagus, and Solid Pancreaticobiliary Lesions (Former Title: PathfinderTG Molecular Testing)
Molecular Testing in the Management of Pulmonary Nodules
Multicancer Early Detection Testing
Multimarker Serum Testing Related to Ovarian Cancer
Multitarget Polymerase Chain Reaction Testing for Diagnosis of Bacterial Vaginosis
Newborn Metabolic, Endocrine and Hemoglobinopathy, and Newborn Hearing Loss Screening Programs Mandate
Noninvasive Techniques for the Evaluation and Monitoring of Patients with Chronic Liver Disease
Novel Biomarkers in Risk Assessment and Management of Cardiovascular Disease
Nutrient/Nutritional Panel Testing
Preimplantation Genetic Testing
Preventive Services for Medicare Advantage Plans
Preventive Services for Commercial Members
Proprietary Laboratory Analyses (PLA) and Multianalyte Assays with Algorithmic Analyses (MAAA)
Proteogenomic Testing for Patients with Cancer
Urinary Biomarkers for Cancer Screening, Diagnosis and Surveillance
Whole Exome and Whole Genome Sequencing for Diagnosis of Genetic Disorders

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, March 2024
Provider Update, February/April/June/November 2023
Provider Update, March/August 2022
Provider Update, October 2021

REFERENCES

1. American Medical Association, CPT 2024 Professional Edition.

2. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Molecular Pathology Procedures (L35000)
3. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). LCD Reference Article. Billing and Coding: Molecular Pathology Procedures (A56199)
4. ACMG Board of Directors. Clinical utility of genetic and genomic services: a position statement of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics. *Genet Med.* Jun 2015;17(6):505-507. PMID 25764213
5. Teutsch SM, Bradley LA, Palomaki GE, et al. The Evaluation of Genomic Applications in Practice and Prevention (EGAPP) Initiative: methods of the EGAPP Working Group. *Genet Med.* Jan 2009;11(1):3-14. PMID 18813139
6. Beltran-Sanchez H, Razak F, Subramanian SV. Going beyond the disability-based morbidity definition in the compression of morbidity framework. *Glob Health Action.* Sep 2014;7:24766. PMID 25261699
7. Choi M, Scholl UI, Ji W, et al. Genetic diagnosis by whole exome capture and massively parallel DNA sequencing. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* Nov 10 2009;106(45):19096-19101. PMID 19861545
8. Bell CJ, Dinwiddie DL, Miller NA, et al. Carrier testing for severe childhood recessive diseases by next-generation sequencing. *Sci Transl Med.* Jan 12 2011;3(65):65ra64. PMID 21228398
9. Foo JN, Liu J, Tan EK. Next-generation sequencing diagnostics for neurological diseases/disorders: from a clinical perspective. *Hum Genet.* Jul 2013;132(7):721-734. PMID 23525706
10. Lin X, Tang W, Ahmad S, et al. Applications of targeted gene capture and next-generation sequencing technologies in studies of human deafness and other genetic disabilities. *Hear Res.* Jun 2012;288(1-2):67-76. PMID 22269275
11. Raymond FL, Whittaker J, Jenkins L, et al. Molecular prenatal diagnosis: the impact of modern technologies. *Prenat Diagn.* Jul 2010;30(7):674-681. PMID 20572117
12. Simen BB, Yin L, Goswami CP, et al. Validation of a next-generation-sequencing cancer panel for use in the clinical laboratory. *Arch Pathol Lab Med.* Apr 2015;139(4):508-517. PMID 25356985
13. Yohe S, Hauge A, Bunjer K, et al. Clinical validation of targeted next-generation sequencing for inherited disorders. *Arch Pathol Lab Med.* Feb 2015;139(2):204-210. PMID 25611102
14. Sivakumaran TA, Husami A, Kissell D, et al. Performance evaluation of the next-generation sequencing approach for molecular diagnosis of hereditary hearing loss. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* Jun 2013;148(6):1007-1016. PMID 23525850
15. Hiraki S, Rinella ES, Schnabel F, et al. Cancer risk assessment using genetic panel testing: considerations for clinical application. *J Genet Couns.* Aug 2014;23(4):604-617. PMID 24599651
16. Yorczyk A, Robinson LS, Ross TS. Use of panel tests in place of single gene tests in the cancer genetics-clinic. *Clin Genet.* Sep 2015;88(3):278-282. PMID 25318351
17. EGL Genetics, Eurofins Clinical Diagnostics. Molecular Genetic Testing. 2017; <http://www.egl-eurofins.com/tests/test-menu.php>. Accessed November 30, 2017.
18. Henneman L, Borry P, Chokoshvili D, et al. Responsible implementation of expanded carrier screening. *Eur J Hum Genet.* Jun 2016; 24(6): e1-e12. PMID 26980105
19. Edwards JG, Feldman G, Goldberg J, et al. Expanded carrier screening in reproductive medicine—points to consider: a joint statement of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, National Society of Genetic Counselors, Perinatal Quality Foundation, and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. *Obstet Gynecol.* Mar 2015; 125(3): 653-662. PMID 25730230
20. Kaback MM. Population-based genetic screening for reproductive counseling: the Tay-Sachs disease model. *Eur J Pediatr.* Dec 2000; 159 Suppl 3: S192-5. PMID 11216898
21. Banda Y, Kvale MN, Hoffmann TJ, et al. Characterizing Race/Ethnicity and Genetic Ancestry for 100,000 Subjects in the Genetic Epidemiology Research on Adult Health and Aging (GERA) Cohort. *Genetics.* Aug 2015; 200(4): 1285-95. PMID 26092716
22. Grant MD, Lauderdale DS. Cohort effects in a genetically determined trait: eye colour among US whites. *Ann Hum Biol.* 2002; 29(6): 657-66. PMID 12573082
23. Committee on Genetics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. ACOG Committee Opinion. Number 325, December 2005. Update on carrier screening for cystic fibrosis. *Obstet Gynecol.* Dec 2005; 106(6): 1465-8. PMID 16319281

24. Committee Opinion No. 691: Carrier Screening for Genetic Conditions. *Obstet Gynecol.* Mar 2017;129(3): e41-e55. PMID 28225426
25. Watson MS, Cutting GR, Desnick RJ, et al. Cystic fibrosis population carrier screening: 2004 revision of American College of Medical Genetics mutation panel. *Genet Med.* 2004; 6(5): 387-91. PMID 15371902
26. Prior TW. Carrier screening for spinal muscular atrophy. *Genet Med.* Nov 2008; 10(11): 840-2. PMID18941424
27. Gross SJ, Pletcher BA, Monaghan KG. Carrier screening in individuals of Ashkenazi Jewish descent. *Genet Med.* Jan 2008; 10(1): 54-6. PMID 18197057
28. Burke W, Tarini B, Press NA, et al. Genetic screening. *Epidemiol Rev.* 2011; 33(1): 148-64. PMID21709145
29. Bajaj K, Gross SJ. Carrier screening: past, present, and future. *J Clin Med.* Sept 2015 2014;3(3):1033-1042. PMC4449659
30. Kaback M, Lim-Steele J, Dabholkar D, et al. Tay-Sachs disease--carrier screening, prenatal diagnosis, and the molecular era. An international perspective, 1970 to 1993. The International TSD Data Collection Network. *JAMA.* Nov 17 1993; 270(19): 2307-15. PMID 8230592
31. Ioannou L, McClaren BJ, Massie J, et al. Population-based carrier screening for cystic fibrosis: a systematic review of 23 years of research. *Genet Med.* Mar 2014; 16(3): 207-16. PMID 24030436
32. Wang T, Kiss D, McFadden K, et al. Clinical utility of reproductive carrier screening for preconception and pregnant couples for multiple genetic conditions: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Expert Rev Mol Diagn.* May 2023; 23(5): 419-429. PMID 37086152
33. Shraga R, Yarnall S, Elango S, et al. Evaluating genetic ancestry and self-reported ethnicity in the context of carrier screening. *BMC Genet.* Nov 28 2017; 18(1): 99. PMID 29179688
34. Committee Opinion No. 690: Carrier Screening in the Age of Genomic Medicine. *Obstet Gynecol.* Mar2017; 129(3): e35-e40. PMID 28225425
35. Gregg AR, Aarabi M, Klugman S, et al. Screening for autosomal recessive and X-linked conditions during pregnancy and preconception: a practice resource of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG). *Genet Med.* Oct 2021; 23(10): 1793-1806. PMID 34285390
36. Stevens B, Krstic N, Jones M, et al. Finding Middle Ground in Constructing a Clinically Useful Expanded Carrier Screening Panel. *Obstet Gynecol.* Aug 2017; 130(2): 279-284. PMID 28697118
37. Kaseniit KE, Haque IS, Goldberg JD, et al. Genetic ancestry analysis on 93,000 individuals undergoing expanded carrier screening reveals limitations of ethnicity-based medical guidelines. *Genet Med.* Oct2020; 22(10): 1694-1702. PMID 32595206
38. Westemeyer M, Saucier J, Wallace J, et al. Clinical experience with carrier screening in a general population: support for a comprehensive pan-ethnic approach. *Genet Med.* Aug 2020; 22(8): 1320-1328. PMID 32366966
39. Guo MH, Gregg AR. Estimating yields of prenatal carrier screening and implications for design of expanded carrier screening panels. *Genet Med.* Sep 2019; 21(9): 1940-1947. PMID 30846881
40. Terhaar C, Teed N, Allen R, et al. Clinical experience with multigene carrier panels in the reproductive setting. *Prenat Diagn.* Apr 23 2018; 38(8): 572-7. PMID 29683194
41. Peyser A, Singer T, Mullin C, et al. Comparing ethnicity-based and expanded carrier screening methods at a single fertility center reveals significant differences in carrier rates and carrier couple rates. *Genet Med.* Jun 2019; 21(6): 1400-1406. PMID 30327537
42. Hernandez-Nieto C, Alkon-Meadows T, Lee J, et al. Expanded carrier screening for preconception reproductive risk assessment: Prevalence of carrier status in a Mexican population. *Prenat Diagn.* Apr2020; 40(5): 635-643. PMID 32003480
43. Ben-Shachar R, Svenson A, Goldberg JD, et al. A data-driven evaluation of the size and content of expanded carrier screening panels. *Genet Med.* Sep 2019; 21(9): 1931-1939. PMID 30816298
44. Arjunan A, Bellerose H, Torres R, et al. Evaluation and classification of severity for 176 genes on an expanded carrier screening panel. *Prenat Diagn.* Sep 2020; 40(10): 1246-1257. PMID 32474937
45. Beauchamp KA, Johansen Taber KA, Muzzey D. Clinical impact and cost-effectiveness of a 176-condition expanded carrier screen. *Genet Med.* Sep 2019; 21(9): 1948-1957. PMID 30760891
46. Ghioffi CE, Goldberg JD, Haque IS, et al. Clinical Utility of Expanded Carrier Screening: Reproductive Behaviors of At-Risk Couples. *J Genet Couns.* Jun 2018; 27(3): 616-625. PMID 28956228

47. Johansen Taber KA, Beauchamp KA, Lazarin GA, et al. Clinical utility of expanded carrier screening: results-guided actionability and outcomes. *Genet Med.* May 2019; 21(5): 1041-1048. PMID 30310157
48. den Dunnen JT, Dalgleish R, Maglott DR, et al. HGVS Recommendations for the Description of Sequence Variants: 2016 Update. *Human mutation.* 2016;37(6):564-9. PMID: 26931183
49. Desmond A, Kurian AW, Gabree M, et al. Clinical Actionability of Multigene Panel Testing for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Risk Assessment. *JAMA Oncol.* 2015;1:943-51. PMID: 26270727
50. Kurian AW, Hare EE, Mills MA, et al. Clinical evaluation of a multiple-gene sequencing panel for hereditary cancer risk assessment. *J Clin Oncol.* 2014;32:2001-9. PMID: 24733792
51. Mauer CB, Pirzadeh-Miller SM, Robinson LD, et al. The integration of next-generation sequencing panels in the clinical cancer genetics practice: an institutional experience. *Genet Med.* 2014;16:407-12. PMID: 24113346
52. Cheng HH, Klemfuss N, Montgomery B, et al. A Pilot Study of Clinical Targeted Next Generation Sequencing for Prostate Cancer: Consequences for Treatment and Genetic Counseling. *The Prostate.* 2016;76(14):1303-11. PMID: 27324988
53. Bunnell AE, Garby CA, Pearson EJ, et al. The Clinical Utility of Next Generation Sequencing Results in a Community-Based Hereditary Cancer Risk Program. *Journal of genetic counseling.* 2017;26(1):105-12. PMID: 27276934
54. Yadav S, Reeves A, Campian S, et al. Outcomes of retesting BRCA negative patients using multigene panels. *Familial cancer.* 2017;16(3):319-28. PMID: 27878467
55. Pritzlaff M, Summerour P, McFarland R, et al. Male breast cancer in a multi-gene panel testing cohort: insights and unexpected results. *Breast cancer research and treatment.* 2017;161(3):575-86. PMID: 28008555
56. Lumish HS, Steinfeld H, Koval C, et al. Impact of Panel Gene Testing for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer on Patients. *Journal of genetic counseling.* 2017;26(5):1116-29. PMID: 28357778
57. Hermel DJ, McKinnon WC, Wood ME, et al. Multi-gene panel testing for hereditary cancer susceptibility in a rural Familial Cancer Program. *Familial cancer.* 2017;16(1):159-66. PMID: 27401692
58. Sireci AN, Aggarwal VS, Turk AT, et al. Clinical Genomic Profiling of a Diverse Array of Oncology Specimens at a Large Academic Cancer Center: Identification of Targetable Variants and Experience with Reimbursement. *The Journal of molecular diagnostics: JMD.* 2017;19(2):277-87. PMID: 28024947
59. Hamblin A, Wordsworth S, Fermont JM, et al. Clinical applicability and cost of a 46-gene panel for genomic analysis of solid tumours: Retrospective validation and prospective audit in the UK National Health Service. *PLoS Med.* 2017;14(2). PMID:
60. Robson ME, Bradbury AR, Arun B, et al. American Society of Clinical Oncology Policy Statement Update: Genetic and Genomic Testing for Cancer Susceptibility. *J Clin Oncol.* 2015;33:3660-7. PMID: 26324357
61. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™. Genetic/Familial High-Risk Assessment: Breast, Ovarian, and Pancreatic. [cited 7/21/2023]. 'Available from:' https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/genetics_bop.pdf.

CLICK THE ENVELOPE ICON BELOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center. If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions. This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

