

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 10|01|2015

**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 01|04|2023

## **OVERVIEW**

The diagnosis of bladder cancer is generally made by cystoscopy and biopsy. Bladder cancer has a very high frequency of recurrence and therefore follow-up cystoscopy, along with urine cytology, is done periodically to identify recurrence early. Urine biomarkers that might be used to either supplement or supplant these tests have been actively investigated.

## **MEDICAL CRITERIA**

Not applicable

## **PRIOR AUTHORIZATION**

Not applicable

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **Medicare Advantage Plans**

The use of urinary tumor markers is not covered in the screening, diagnosis of, and monitoring for bladder cancer, or screening for precancerous colonic polyps.

### **Commercial Products**

The use of urinary tumor markers is considered not medically necessary in the screening, diagnosis of, and monitoring for bladder cancer, or screening for precancerous colonic polyps.

## **COVERAGE**

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

## **BACKGROUND**

Urinary bladder cancer, a relatively common form of cancer in the United States, results in significant morbidity and mortality. Bladder cancer (urothelial carcinoma), typically presents as a tumor confined to the superficial mucosa of the bladder. The most frequent symptom of early bladder cancer is hematuria; however, urinary tract symptoms (i.e., urinary frequency, urgency, dysuria) may also occur. Cigarette smoking is an important risk factor for urothelial carcinoma.

The criterion standard for a confirmatory diagnosis of bladder cancer is cystoscopic examination with biopsy. At initial diagnosis, approximately 70% of patients have cancers confined to the epithelium or subepithelial connective tissue. Non-muscle-invasive disease is usually treated with transurethral resection, with or without intravesical therapy, depending on the depth of invasion and tumor grade. However, a 50% to 75% incidence of recurrence has been noted in these patients, with 10% to 15% progressing to muscle invasion over a 5-year period. Current follow-up protocols include flexible cystoscopy and urine cytology every 3 months for 1 to 3 years, every 6 months for an additional 2 to 3 years, and then annually thereafter, assuming no recurrence.

While urine cytology is a specific test (from 90%-100%), its sensitivity is lower, ranging from 50% to 60% overall and is considered even lower for low-grade tumors. Therefore, interest has been reported in

identifying tumor markers in voided urine that would provide a more sensitive and objective test for tumor recurrence.

Adjunctive testing to urine cytology has used a variety of nuclear and cytoplasmic targets, and a range of molecular pathology and traditional (eg, immunohistochemistry) methods.

Commercially available tests that have been cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance are summarized in the Regulatory Status section.

## REGULATORY STATUS

Urinary tumor marker tests approved or cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as laboratory-developed tests include:

- BTA stat® test (Manufacturer: Polymedco) Indication: Qualitative detection of bladder tumor-associated antigen in the urine of persons diagnosed with bladder cancer
- BTA TRAK® test (Manufacturer: Polymedco) Indication: Quantitative detection of bladder tumor-associated antigen in the urine of persons diagnosed with bladder cancer
- Alere NMP22® (Manufacturer: Alere) Indication: In vitro quantitative determination of the nuclear mitotic apparatus protein (NuMA) in stabilized voided urine. Used as adjunct to cystoscopy
- BladderChek® (Manufacturer: Alere) Indication: Adjunct to cystoscopy in patients at risk for bladder cancer
- UroVysion® (Manufacturer: Abbott Molecular) Indication: Aid in the initial diagnosis of bladder cancer (P030052) and monitoring patients with previously diagnosed bladder cancer

For individuals who have signs and/or symptoms of bladder cancer who receive urinary tumor marker tests in addition to cytology, the evidence includes a number of diagnostic accuracy studies and meta-analyses of these studies. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, test accuracy and validity, and resource utilization. A meta-analysis of diagnostic accuracy studies determined that urinary tumor marker tests have sensitivity ranging from 47% to 82% and specificity ranging from 53% to 95%. This analysis found that combining urinary tumor markers with cytology improves diagnostic accuracy, but about 10% of cancers would still be missed. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who have a history of bladder cancer who receive urinary tumor marker tests in addition to cystoscopy, the evidence includes a number of diagnostic accuracy studies, meta-analyses, as well as a decision curve analysis and retrospective study examining the clinical utility of urinary tumor marker tests. The relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, test accuracy and validity, and resource utilization. The diagnostic accuracy studies found that urinary tumor marker tests have pooled sensitivity ranging from 52% to 84% and pooled specificity ranging from 71% to 91%. The decision analysis found only a small clinical benefit for use of a urinary tumor marker test and the retrospective study found that a urinary tumor marker test was not significantly associated with findings of the subsequent surveillance cystoscopy. No studies using the preferred trial design to evaluate clinical utility were identified; ie, controlled studies prospectively evaluating health outcomes in patients managed with and without use of urinary tests or prospective studies comparing different cystoscopy protocols used in conjunction with urinary tumor markers. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who are asymptomatic and at a population-level risk of bladder cancer who receive urinary tumor marker tests, the evidence includes a systematic review and several uncontrolled prospective and retrospective studies. The relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, and test accuracy and validity. A 2010 systematic review (conducted for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force) did not

identify any randomized controlled trials, the preferred trial design to evaluate the impact of population-based screening and found only 1 prospective study that the Task Force rated as poor quality. A more recent retrospective study, assessing a population-based screening program in the Netherlands, reported low diagnostic yield. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who are asymptomatic and at a population-level risk of colon cancer who receive urinary tests for precancerous polyps, evidence includes a validation study. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, and test accuracy and validity. The clinical data supporting a urine metabolite assay for adenomatous polyps includes a report of a training and validation set published in 2017. Current evidence does not support the diagnostic accuracy of urinary tumor markers to screen asymptomatic individuals for precancerous polyps. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

## **CODING**

The following CPT codes are not covered for Medicare Advantage Plans and not medically necessary for Commercial products:

- 86294** Immunoassay for tumor antigen, qualitative or semi quantitative (e.g., bladder tumor antigen)
- 86386** Nuclear Matrix Protein 22 (NMP22), qualitative
- 88120** Cytopathology, in situ hybridization (eg, FISH), urinary tract specimen with morphometric analysis, 3-5 molecular probes, each specimen; manual
- 88121** Cytopathology, in situ hybridization (eg, FISH), urinary tract specimen with morphometric analysis, 3-5 molecular probes, each specimen; using computer-assisted technology
- 0012M** Oncology (urothelial), mRNA, gene expression profiling by real-time quantitative PCR of five genes (MDK, HOXA13, CDC2 [CDK1], IGFBP5, and XCR2), utilizing urine, algorithm reported as a risk score for having urothelial carcinoma
- 0013M** Oncology (urothelial), mRNA, gene expression profiling by real-time quantitative PCR of five genes (MDK, HOXA13, CDC2 [CDK1], IGFBP5, and CXCR2), utilizing urine, algorithm reported as a risk score for having recurrent urothelial carcinoma
- 0002U** Oncology (colorectal), quantitative assessment of three urine metabolites (ascorbic acid, succinic acid and carnitine) by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) using multiple reaction monitoring acquisition, algorithm reported as likelihood of adenomatous polyps.

## **RELATED POLICIES**

Proprietary Laboratory Analysis Tests (PLA)

## **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, March 2023  
Provider Update, April 2022  
Provider Update, March 2021  
Provider Update, March 2020  
Provider Update, April 2019

## **REFERENCES**

1. Chou R, Buckley D, Fu R, et al. Emerging Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment of NonMuscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer (Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 153). Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2015
2. Fernandez CA, Millholland JM, Zwarthoff EC, et al. A noninvasive multi-analyte diagnostic assay: combining protein and DNA markers to stratify bladder cancer patients. Res Rep Urol. 2012; 4: 17-26. PMID 24199176
3. Zuiverloon TC, van der Aa MN, van der Kwast TH, et al. Fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 mutation analysis on voided urine for surveillance of patients with low-grade non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer. Clin Cancer Res. Jun 01 2010; 16(11): 3011-8. PMID 20404005

4. Zuiverloon TC, Beukers W, van der Keur KA, et al. Combinations of urinary biomarkers for surveillance of patients with incident nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer: the European FP7 UROMOL project. *J Urol.* May 2013; 189(5): 1945-51. PMID 23201384
5. D'Elia C, Folchini DM, Mian C, et al. Diagnostic value of Xpert (R) Bladder Cancer Monitor in the follow-up of patients affected by non-muscle invasive bladder cancer: an update. *Ther Adv Urol.* Jan-Dec 2021; 13: 1756287221997183. PMID 33747133
6. Pichler R, Fritz J, Tulchiner G, et al. Increased accuracy of a novel mRNA-based urine test for bladder cancer surveillance. *BJU Int.* Jan 2018; 121(1): 29-37. PMID 28941000
7. Grocela JA, McDougal WS. Utility of nuclear matrix protein (NMP22) in the detection of recurrent bladder cancer. *Urol Clin North Am.* Feb 2000; 27(1): 47-51, viii. PMID 10696244
8. Shariat SF, Savage C, Chromecki TF, et al. Assessing the clinical benefit of nuclear matrix protein 22 in the surveillance of patients with nonmuscle-invasive bladder cancer and negative cytology: a decision-curve analysis. *Cancer.* Jul 01 2011; 117(13): 2892-7. PMID 21692050
9. Kim PH, Sukhu R, Cordon BH, et al. Reflex fluorescence in situ hybridization assay for suspicious urinary cytology in patients with bladder cancer with negative surveillance cystoscopy. *BJU Int.* Sep 2014; 114(3): 354-9. PMID 24128299
10. Chou R, Dana T. Screening adults for bladder cancer: a review of the evidence for the U.S. preventive services task force. *Ann Intern Med.* Oct 05 2010; 153(7): 461-8. PMID 20921545
11. Bangma CH, Loeb S, Busstra M, et al. Outcomes of a bladder cancer screening program using home hematuria testing and molecular markers. *Eur Urol.* Jul 2013; 64(1): 41-7. PMID 23478169
12. Lotan Y, Elias K, Svatek RS, et al. Bladder cancer screening in a high risk asymptomatic population using a point of care urine based protein tumor marker. *J Urol.* Jul 2009; 182(1): 52-7; discussion 58. PMID 19450825
13. US Preventative Services Task Force. Colorectal cancer screening. 2021; <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/document/RecommendationStatementFinal/colorectal-cancer-screening>. Accessed October 16, 2022.
14. Deng L, Chang D, Foshaug RR, et al. Development and Validation of a High-Throughput Mass Spectrometry Based Urine Metabolomic Test for the Detection of Colonic Adenomatous Polyps. *Metabolites.* Jun 22 2017; 7(3). PMID 28640228
15. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Bladder Cancer. Version 5.2021. [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/bladder.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/bladder.pdf). Accessed October 19, 2022.
16. Chang SS, Boorjian SA, Chou R, et al. Diagnosis and Treatment of Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer: AUA/SUO Guideline. *J Urol.* Oct 2016; 196(4): 1021-9. PMID 27317986
17. Barocas DA, Boorjian SA, Alvarez RD, et al. Microhematuria: AUA/SUFU Guideline. *J Urol.* Oct 2020; 204(4): 778-786. PMID 32698717
18. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). Bladder cancer in adults: Screening. Recommendation statement. 2011; <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/bladder-cancer-in-adults-screening>. Accessed October 18, 2022.
19. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Literature Surveillance Report Bladder Cancer in Adults: Screening. 2019. <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/document/literature-surveillance-report/bladder-cancer-in-adults-screening>. Accessed October 17, 2022.

[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.

