

# Medical Coverage Policy



**Blue Cross  
Blue Shield**  
of Rhode Island

## Specimen Provenance Error Testing

Device/Equipment    Drug    Medical    Surgery    Test    Other

<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>2/21/2011</b>	<b>Policy Last Updated:</b>	<b>2/21/2011</b>
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**Prospective review is recommended/required. Please check the member agreement for preauthorization guidelines.**

**Prospective review is not required.**

### **Description:**

Advertized 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.

### **Medical Criteria:**

Not applicable.

### **Policy:**

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

### **Coverage:**

Please refer to the appropriate Member Certificate, Subscriber Agreement, or Benefits Booklet for applicable coverage/benefits.

### **Coding:**

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

### **84999**

### **Also known as:**

Not applicable

### **Related topics:**

Not applicable

### **Published:**

*Provider Update*, March 2012

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