Gene Expression Profiling

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Definitions

Gene expression profiling (GEP) is a technology for identifying the genes that are active in a given sample of cells or tissue. This technique enables profiling of genes that are differentially expressed in disease states; thereby providing diagnostic and prognostic information.

Note: This guideline includes gene expression analysis, gene sequencing, and other techniques.

Related Medical Guidelines

AlloMap® Molecular Expression Testing for Post-Heart-Transplant Rejection — MCG #ACG: A-0623 (AC)

Analysis of KRAS Status

BCR-ABL1 Genetic Mutation Testing in Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia and Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia — MCG #s: ACG: A-0759 (AC), ACG: A-0771 (AC)

BRAF Mutation Analysis

BRCA 1 and 2 Genetic Testing (Sequence Analysis/Rearrangement)


Carrier Screening for Parents or Prospective Parents


Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Mutation Analysis for Patients with Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer (MCG Criteria #ACG: A-0795 ([AC])

Factor V Leiden Mutation Analysis — MCG #ACG: A-0600 (AC)

Gene Expression Profiling and Biomarker Testing for Breast Cancer


Gene Expression Testing for Multiple Myeloma

Genetic Analysis of PIK3CA Status in Tumor Cells
Genetic Counseling and Testing
Genetic Testing for Alzheimer’s disease — MCG #s: ACG: A-0590 (AC) for early onset disease (considered medically necessary); ACG: A-0809 (AC) for late onset disease (considered not medically necessary)
Genetic Testing for Cerebral Autosomal Dominant Arteriopathy with Subcortical Infarcts and Leukoencephalopathy (CADASIL) Syndrome — MCG #ACG: A-0668 (AC)
Genetic Testing for Colorectal Cancer/Lynch Syndrome
Genetic Testing for Cystic Fibrosis — MCG #ACG: A-0597 (AC)
Genetic Testing for Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)
Genetic Testing for Hereditary Pancreatitis — MCG #s: ACG: A-0646 (AC) for CFTR, CPA1, CTRC, PRSS1, and SPINK1 genes; ACG: A-0797 (AC) for next generation sequencing panel
Genetic Testing for Peripheral Neuropathies — MCG #ACG: A-0691 (AC)
Genetic Testing for PTEN Hamartoma Tumor Syndrome
Genetic Testing for RET Proto-Oncogene Germline Mutations — MCG # ACG: A-0842 (AC)
Genetic Testing for Statin-Induced Myopathy — MCG #ACG: A-0981 (AC)
MYvantage® Hereditary Comprehensive Cancer Panel

Guideline
Members are eligible for GEP testing as follows:

I. Advanced cancer; next generation sequencing (NGS), when performed with a diagnostic lab test that has received FDA approval or clearance (e.g., Foundation One CDx) — Medicare members only per National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) when the following criteria are met:
   1. Member has
      i. either recurrent, relapsed, refractory, metastatic, or advanced stages III or IV cancer; and
      ii. either not been previously tested using the same NGS test for the same primary diagnosis of cancer or repeat testing using the same NGS test only when a new primary cancer diagnosis is made by the treating physician; and
      iii. decided to seek further cancer treatment (e.g., therapeutic chemotherapy)
   2. The diagnostic laboratory test using NGS must have:
      i. FDA approval or clearance as a companion in vitro diagnostic; and
      ii. an FDA approved or cleared indication for use in that patient’s cancer; and
      iii. results provided to the treating physician for management of the patient using a report template to specify treatment options

II. Breast cancer, clinical management; one of the following
   (See EmblemHealth Gene Expression Profiling and Biomarker Testing for Breast Cancer Medical Guideline)

III. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)/Metastatic colorectal cancer — Medicare members only per Genomic Sequence Analysis Panels in the Treatment of Solid Organ Neoplasms LCD (e.g., OncoVantage®)
IV. Solid tumor cell-free DNA in plasma (liquid biopsies) — Medicare members only per Plasma-Based Genomic Profiling in Solid Tumors LCD (Guardant360®)

V. AlloMap testing for post-heart-transplant rejection (MCG Criteria #ACG: A-0623 [AC])

VI. Prostate cancer
   1. Decipher® Prostate is covered for all lines of business using criteria from LCD: Decipher® Prostate Cancer Classifier Assay
   2. Oncotype DX is covered for all lines of business using criteria from LCD: Oncotype DX® Prostate Cancer Assay
   3. Prolaris® Prostate Cancer is covered for all lines of business using criteria from LCD: Prolaris™ Prostate Cancer Genomic Assay for Men with Favorable Intermediate Risk Disease
   4. ProMark® Proteomic Prognostic Test is covered for all lines of business using criteria from LCD: ProMark Risk Score

VII. Thyroid lesions with indeterminate cytology; one-time testing
   1. Afirma Thyroid FNA Analysis®
   2. ThyGenX (formerly miRInform®)
   3. ThyraMIR Thyroid miRNA classifier
   4. ThyroSeq next generation sequencing

VIII. Uveal melanoma (DecisionDx covered for Medicare members only)

Limitations/Exclusions
I. Gene expression profiling is not considered medically necessary in the absence of the following:
   1. Analytical/clinical validity
   2. Clinical utility (i.e., result does not impact medical management; e.g., surgery, change in surveillance, chemotherapy, hormonal manipulation, etc.)

II. Confirmation of consumer-based testing (including, but not limited to Health + Ancestry [23andMe] has not been shown to be of clinical value and remains experimental/investigational. Testing will be approved only for members who otherwise meet the clinical criteria in these policies

III. Whole exome sequencing and whole genome sequencing are not considered medically necessary due to insufficient evidence of therapeutic value for all indications, including but not limited to:
   1. Diagnosis in members with suspected genetic disorders
   2. Population-based screening
   3. Cancer testing to identify targeted therapies
   4. Preimplantation genetic diagnosis and screening
   5. Invasive prenatal (fetal) testing
   6. Products of conception and pregnancy loss
   7. Testing for chromosomal rearrangements

IV. The following GEP tests are not considered medically necessary due to insufficient evidence of therapeutic value (list not all-inclusive; note exceptions):
   1. 23-Gene NGS Pyruvate Metabolism and Related Disorders Panel
2. 23andMe Health + Ancestry Service
3. ADmark® Alzheimer’s Evaluation
4. Albinism Panel
5. AmHPR Helicobacter Pylori Antibiotic Resistance NGS Panel
6. Autosomal Dominant and Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease Nextgen Sequencing (NGS) Panel
7. Avise tests
   i. Avise® CTD
   ii. Avise® MTX (aka Avise PG) (Covered for Medicare members only)
   iii. Avise® Lupus
8. bioTheranostics Cancer TYPE ID (Covered for Medicare members only)
9. BRCAPlus
10. BluePrint®
11. BreastNext™
12. BreastOncPx™
13. BreastPRS
14. BREVAGen/BREVAGenplus
15. CancerNext, CancerNext-Expanded™
16. CancerTYPE ID® (Covered for Medicare members only)
17. Carbohydrate Metabolism Deficiency NextGen DNA Screening Panel
18. Cardiovascular Health Panel
19. CGD Universal Test Panel
20. Ciliopathies: Sequencing Panel
21. Ciliopathy NextGen Sequencing (NGS) Panel
22. Clonoseq® (Covered for Medicare members only)
23. ColoNext™
24. ColoVantage
25. Combined Cardiac Panel (Covered for Medicare members only)
27. Complete Lung
28. Comprehensive Dystonia NextGen DNA Screening Panel
29. Comprehensive Inherited Retinal Dystrophies Sequencing Panel
30. Comprehensive Molecular Genetic Panel
   Comprehensive Muscular Dystrophy/Myopathy Next Generation DNA Sequencing Panel
31. Comprehensive Molecular Genetic Panel
32. ConfirmMDx™ (Covered for Medicare members only)
33. Congenital Myopathy NextGen Sequencing (NGS) Panel
34. Congenital Stationary Night Blindness panel
35. Connective Tissue NGS Panel
36. Corus® CAD (Coverage rescinded for Medicare members effective Dec. 12, 2018 based on noncoverage Local Coverage Determination: MolDX: Corus® CAD Assay)
37. Counsyl Foresight Carrier Screen
38. Craniosynostosis next generation sequencing (NGS) panel
39. DecisionDx tests
   i. Glioblastoma
   ii. Uveal melanoma (Covered for Medicare members only)
40. DecodEX Microbial Genetic Identification
41. Distal Hereditary Motor Neuropathy NextGen Sequencing (NGS) Panel
42. Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome NGS Panel Dominant and Recessive
43. ENGAUGE™-cancer-DLBCL
44. Epi proColon
45. ExomeNext
46. ExomeNext-Rapid
47. Expanded Pan-Ethnic Panel
48. Familial Hemiplegic Migraine NextGen Sequencing (NGS) Panel Fetal Akinesia Deformation Sequence/Lethal Multiple Pterygium Syndrome NextGen Sequencing (NGS) Panel
49. FoundationOne CDx (Covered as a diagnostic lab test for Medicare members only per CMC National Coverage Determination [See Advanced Cancer above]. For pharmacogenetic testing use, see Genetic Analysis of PIK3CA Status in Tumor Cells)
50. GeneAware
51. GeneFx® Colon
52. GeneFx® Lung
53. GeneKey
54. GeneStrat™
55. GeneSight (Covered for Medicare members only)
56. GeneTrails® Solid Tumor Panel
57. GPS Cancer
58. Guardant 360® Panel (Covered for Medicare members only)
59. Healthy Weight DNA Insight
60. Healthy Woman DNA Insight
61. HCMNext
62. H/I Gene Expression Ratio
63. Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis Panel by next generation sequencing (NGS)
64. Hereditary Spherocytosis/Elliptocytosis NextGen Sequencing Panel
65. HERmark (Covered for Medicare members only, see Gene Expression Profiling and Biomarker Testing for Breast Cancer)
66. HLA-DQB1*06:02 typing for the diagnosis or management of narcolepsy
67. HOX13:IL17BR
68. Hypokalemic and Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis Disorders NGS Sequencing Panel
69. Insight* DX Breast Cancer Profile
70. Intellectual Disability (IDNEXT) Panel
71. Leukoencephalopathy NGS Panel
72. Lipodystrophy NGS Panel
73. LUNGSEQ® Panel
74. Macula Risk PGx
75. Macular Degeneration Mutation Analysis
76. Mammastatin
77. miReview®
78. Mammastrat
79. Melaris®
80. Molecular Intelligence
81. My5-FU™ (previously OnDose™)
82. Myeloid Molecular Profile
83. myPath®
84. MyPRS® Myeloma Prognostic Risk Signature
85. myRisk™
86. Neurotransmitter Metabolism Deficiency NextGen DNA Screening Panel
87. Next Gen RASopathy Panel
88. Next Generation Sequencing Panel for ASXL1, RECQL4, RNU4ATAC, SOX2
89. NextStepDx PLUS®
90. NGS Epilepsy/Seizure Panel
91. NGS RASopathy Panel
92. OmniSeq Comprehensive
93. Oncotype DX® tests
   i. AR-V7 Nucleus (Covered for Medicare members only)
   ii. Breast DCIS (Covered for Medicare members only)
   iii. Colon cancer (Covered for Medicare members only)
94. Oncofocus®
95. OnkoMatch™
96. OncoVantage® (Covered for Medicare members only)
97. Oncovue
98. OPA 1 gene sequencing for autosomal dominant optic atrophy and/or optic neuropathy
99. Osteogenesis Imperfecta NGS Panel-Recessive
100. OvaNext™
101. Overa (aka OVA1 Next Generation or second-generation Multivariate Index Assay [MIA2G] test)
102. PAM50 Breast Cancer Intrinsic Classifier™
103. PancNext™
104. PancreGEN (previously Pathfinder TG®) (Covered for Medicare members only)
105. Panexia®
106. Paradigm Cancer Diagnostics [PCDx] Test
107. Pediatric Neurology Region of Interest Trio
108. Percepta Bronchial Genomic Classifier (Covered for Medicare members only)
109. Pervenio™ Lung NGS (Covered for Medicare members only)
110. Pontocerebellar Hypoplasia Panel
111. Post-Op Px™ (formerly the Prostate Px Plus)
112. Preparent Global Panel
113. Previstage™
114. Progenity CFnxt
115. Progenity® Pan-Ethnic Carrier Screening Panel
116. PROGENSA® PCA3 (Covered for Medicare members only)
117. ProOnc TumorSource DX
118. Proove profile panels (e.g., Opioid Risk Panel)
119. ProstateNext
120. RenalNext™
121. ResponseDX Tissue Origin Test Rotterdam/Veridex (Covered for Medicare members only)
122. RetnaGene AMD
123. Rotterdam Signature
124. Saethre-Chotzen Syndrome (TWIST) Sequencing and MLPA (Greenwood Genetic Center)
125. ScolioScore™ AIS Prognostic Test
126. SelectMDx for prostate cancer
127. Spastic Paraplegia Next Generation Sequencing Panel
128. Stickler Syndrome NGS Panel
129. SymGene68™ Next Generation Sequencing Cancer Panel
130. SYMPHONY™ Genomic Breast Cancer Profile (combines BluePrint, MammaPrint and TargetPrint tests)
131. Skeletal Dysplasia Ciliopathy NGS Panel
132. SYMPHONY™ Personalized Breast Cancer Genomic Profile
133. TAADNext
134. Target Now™ molecular profiling test (aka MI Profile, MI Profile X)
135. TargetPrint®
136. TheraPrint®
137. theraSEEK Sequence Analysis for Functional Disorders
138. Thrombocytopenia NextGen Sequencing (NGS) Panel
139. TruGenome Undiagnosed Disease Test
140. TruGenome Technical Sequence Data (whole exome sequencing test for labs and physicians who will make their own clinical interpretations make their own clinical interpretations)
141. Universal Carrier Panel
142. Vectra DA (Covered for Medicare members only)
143. Vitreoretinopathy NGS Panel
144. Xpresys Lung (Covered for Medicare members only)

Revision History

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 14, 2020</td>
<td>Added Plasma-Based Genomic Profiling in Solid Tumors LCD specific to Guardant360® for Medicare members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 12, 2019</td>
<td>Added genomic sequence analysis panels (e.g., OncoVantage®) for Medicare members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 8, 2019</td>
<td>Added Oncotype DCIS, Oncotype DX AR-V7 Nucleus and Xpresys Lung tests for Medicare members</td>
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| Feb. 8, 2018   | Added Clonoseq® for Medicare members                                                                                                      
|                | Added link to MYvantage® Hereditary Comprehensive Cancer Panel Medical Guideline and removed MYvantage from Limitations/Exclusions                                                                 |
| Oct. 12, 2018  | Removed Corus® CAD Medicare coverage effective Dec. 12. 2018                                                                                                                                           |
| Aug. 8, 2018   | Added Medicare coverage of Guardant360® Pervenio™ Lung NGS                                                                                                                                             |
| May 5, 2018    | Added Commercial and Medicaid coverage of the Decipher, Oncotype, Prolaris and ProMark gene/biomarker expression profiling tests for prostate cancer to pre-existing Medicare coverage |
| Apr. 13, 2018  | Added FoundationOne CDx test coverage for Medicare members                                                                                  
|                | Removed the following test, Thyroid, FNA Cytomorphology with Molecular tests (Quest), from the list of covered tests for thyroid lesions with indeterminate cytology (no longer available from Quest) |
|                | Added language communicating noncoverage of testing to confirm results of consumer-based testing                                                                                                         |
|                | Added language clarifying that whole exome and whole genome sequencing is considered investigational                                                                                                     |
|                | Updated list of lab tests regarded as investigational                                                                                                                                                |
| Apr. 14, 2017  | Added ThyraMIR Thyroid miRNA classifier to list of eligible tests for thyroid lesions with indeterminate cytology                                                                                         |
|                | Added Melaris to investigational list                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Feb. 2, 2017   | Added the following tests to investigational list: Oncofocus®, Previstage™                                                                                                                               |
| Sept. 9, 2016  | Added the following tests to investigational list: DecodEX, Oncovue, OvaNext™, Panexia®                                                                                                                   |
| Aug. 12, 2016  | Added Medicare coverage for CancerTYPE ID®.                                                                                                                                                    |
|                | Added the following tests to investigational list: BrevaGEN/BrevaGENplus, MyS-FU™ (previously OnDose™), OncoVantage™, OPA 1 gene sequencing for autosomal dominant optic atrophy and/or optic neuropathy, Proove Opioid Risk Test |
Jul. 8, 2016
Added the following tests to investigational list: Combined Cardiac Panel, Counsyl preconception carrier genetic screening, miReview®, Myeloid Molecular Profile, Paradigm Cancer Diagnostics [PCDx] Test, Pediatric Neurology Region of Interest Trio, Progenity® Pan-Ethnic Carrier Screening Panel, Rotterdam Signature, Saethre-Chotzen Syndrome (TWIST) Sequencing and MLPA, SelectMDx for prostate cancer

5/13/2016
Added Medicare coverage for Prosigna™ Breast Cancer Prognostic Gene Signature Assay.
Added GeneStrat and Molecular Intelligence to list of investigational tests.
Reinstated coverage of the following tests for Medicare members: Corus® CAD, ConfirmMDx™, Decipher® Prostate Classifier, Oncotype DX® Colon, Oncotype DX® prostate, Prolaris® and ResponseDX Tissue Origin Test

4/8/2016
Tests no longer covered for Medicare members (NGS Medicare Molecular Pathology LCD effective 4/1/2016) — Corus® CAD, ConfirmMDx™, Decipher® Prostate Classifier, Oncotype DX® colon, Oncotype DX® prostate, Prolaris® and ResponseDX Tissue Origin Test.
Non-covered tests added to investigational list — GeneFx® Colon, myPath® (NGS Medicare Molecular Pathology LCD effective 4/1/2016)

12/21/2015
Amended Limitations/Exclusions Section to reflect positive Medicare coverage for Oncotype Prostate.

10/9/2015
Amended Limitations/Exclusions Section to reflect positive Medicare coverage for Decipher Prostate Classifier and Prolaris

References


Specialty-matched clinical peer review.