



## Genetic Testing for Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)

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### Definitions

Frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) is a neurodegenerative disease associated with gradual progressive focal atrophy of the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain. FTD caused by heterogenous genetic factors are autosomal dominant and frequently have high penetrance. Common genes that have been implicated are progranulin (PGRN), microtubule-associated-protein-tau (MAPT), and chromosome 9 open reading frame 72 (C9orf72). The clinical presentation of FTD is insidious in onset and variable with language and behavioral disturbances including changes in personality, loss of empathy, poor judgment, alterations in movement, inappropriate social behavior. Visuospatial and memory functions are not affected by the disease. FTD is one of the more common forms of dementia affecting individuals less than age 65 years.

### Related Medical Guideline

[Genetic Counseling and Testing](#)

### Guideline

Genetic testing for FTD is considered investigational and not medically necessary for all indications, including:

1. Screening asymptomatic individuals with or without a family history of FTD
2. Diagnosing or predicting the outcome of individuals symptomatic for FTD
3. Prenatal or preimplantation genetic testing to diagnosis FTD in the offspring when a genetic mutation known to caused FTD has been identified in the parent

### Applicable Procedure Codes

81406	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 7 (e.g., analysis of 11-25 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 26-50 exons, cytogenomic array analysis for neoplasia) ANOS1 (anosmin-1) (eg, Kallmann syndrome 1), full gene sequence HMBS (hydroxymethylbilane synthase) (eg, acute intermittent porphyria), full gene sequence PPOX (protoporphyrinogen oxidase) (eg, variegate porphyria), full gene sequence (Revision eff. 01/01/2018)
81479	Unlisted molecular pathology procedure

## References

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