


MEDICAL POLICY	Genetic Testing: Thyroid Nodules (Medicare Only)
Effective Date: 4/1/2021  4/1/2021	Medical Policy Number: 40
	Medical Policy Committee Approved Date: 2/18; 8/19; 12/19; 9/2020; 11/2020; 12/2020; 03/2021
Medical Officer	Date

See Policy CPT CODE section below for any prior authorization requirements

SCOPE:

Providence Health Plan, Providence Health Assurance, Providence Plan Partners, and Ayin Health Solutions as applicable (referred to individually as “Company” and collectively as “Companies”).

APPLIES TO:

Medicare only

MEDICARE POLICY CRITERIA	
<p>The following Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) guidelines should be utilized for medical necessity coverage determinations. Click the link provided in the table below to access applicable medical necessity criteria. All listed guidelines apply.</p>	
Service	Medicare Guidelines
Afirma™ Assay by Veracyte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Coverage Determination: MoIDX: Molecular Diagnostic Tests (MDT) (L36256)¹ Local Coverage Article: Billing and Coding: MoIDX: AFIRMA™ Assay by Veracyte (A54358)²
NRAS Gene Testing for Proliferative Thyroid Lesions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Coverage Determination: MoIDX: NRAS Genetic Testing (L36339)³ Local Coverage Article: Billing and Coding: MoIDX: NRAS Genetic Testing (A57487)⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ThyraMIR (<i>Interpace Diagnostics, Pittsburgh, PA; CPT 0018U</i>), ThyGeNEXT Thyroid Oncogene Panel test (<i>Interpace Diagnostics, Pittsburgh, PA; Prior to 04/01/2021, CPT 81455, As of 04/01/2021, CPT 0245U</i>) ThyroSeq (<i>Sonic Healthcare USA, & Univ of Pittsburgh Medical Center,</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Biomarkers for Oncology (L35396)⁵ Local Coverage Article: Billing and Coding: Biomarkers for Oncology (A52986)⁶

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<i>testing performed in Pittsburgh, PA; CPT 0026U)</i>	
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Per the [Medicare Policy Manual](#) commercial medical policies may be applied to Medicare coverage determinations in the absence of an appropriate NCD, LCD, LCA, or CMS Coverage Manual. Therefore, the commercial medical policy, [Genetic Testing: Thyroid Nodules \(All Lines of Business Except Medicare\)](#), may apply to any services not addressed above.

POLICY GUIDELINES

According to Local Coverage Determination: MoIDX: NRAS Genetic Testing ([L36339](#)), NRAS testing of proliferative thyroid lesions is considered non-covered.

CPT CODES

Medicare Only	
Prior Authorization Required	
81311	NRAS (neuroblastoma RAS viral [v-ras] oncogene homolog) (eg, colorectal carcinoma), gene analysis, variants in exon 2 (eg, codons 12 and 13) and exon 3 (eg, codon 61)
81401	Molecular Pathology Procedure Level 2
81403	Molecular Pathology procedure, Level 4
81404	Molecular Pathology Procedure, Level 5
81405	Molecular Pathology Procedure, Level 6
81406	Molecular Pathology Procedure, Level 7
81445	Targeted genomic sequence analysis panel, solid organ neoplasm, DNA analysis, and RNA analysis when performed, 5-50 genes (eg, ALK, BRAF, CDKN2A, EGFR, ERBB2, KIT, KRAS, NRAS, MET, PDGFRA, PDGFRB, PGR, PIK3CA, PTEN, RET), interrogation for sequence variants and copy number variants or rearrangements, if performed
81545	Oncology (thyroid), gene expression analysis of 142 genes, utilizing fine needle aspirate, algorithm reported as a categorical result (eg, benign or suspicious)
81546	Oncology (thyroid), mRNA, gene expression analysis of 10,196 genes utilizing fine needle aspirate, algorithm reported as a categorical result (eg, benign or suspicious)
0204U	Oncology (thyroid), mRNA, gene expression analysis of 593 genes (including BRAF, RAS, RET, PAX8, and NTRK) for sequence variants and rearrangements, utilizing fine needle aspirate, reported as detected or not detected
0208U	Oncology (medullary thyroid carcinoma), mRNA, gene expression analysis of 108 genes, utilizing fine needle aspirate, algorithm reported as positive or negative for medullary thyroid carcinoma

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0018U	Oncology (thyroid), microRNA profiling by RT-PCR of 10 microRNA sequences, utilizing fine needle aspirate, algorithm reported as a positive or negative result for moderate to high risk of malignancy
0245U	Oncology (thyroid), mutation analysis of 10 genes and 37 RNA fusions and expression of 4 mRNA markers using next-generation sequencing, fine needle aspirate, report includes associated risk of malignancy expressed as a percentage
0026U	Oncology (thyroid), DNA and mRNA of 112 genes, next-generation sequencing, fine needle aspirate of thyroid nodule, algorithmic analysis reported as a categorical result ("Positive, high probability of malignancy" or "Negative, low probability of malignancy")
No Prior Authorization Required	
81210	BRAF (B-Raf proto-oncogene, serine/threonine kinase) (eg, colon cancer, melanoma), gene analysis, V600 variant(s)
Unlisted Codes All unlisted codes will be reviewed for medical necessity, correct coding, and pricing at the claim level. If an unlisted code is billed related to services addressed in this policy then prior-authorization is required.	
81479	Unlisted molecular pathology procedure
81599	Unlisted multianalyte assay with algorithmic analysis
84999	Unlisted chemistry procedure

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Company Medical Policies serve as guidance for the administration of plan benefits. Medical policies do not constitute medical advice nor a guarantee of coverage. Company Medical Policies are reviewed annually and are based upon published, peer-reviewed scientific evidence and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines that are available as of the last policy update. The Companies reserve the right to determine the application of Medical Policies and make revisions to Medical Policies at any time. Providers will be given at least 60-days notice of policy changes that are restrictive in nature.

The scope and availability of all plan benefits are determined in accordance with the applicable coverage agreement. Any conflict or variance between the terms of the coverage agreement and Company Medical Policy will be resolved in favor of the coverage agreement.

REGULATORY STATUS

Mental Health Parity Statement

Coverage decisions are made on the basis of individualized determinations of medical necessity and the experimental or investigational character of the treatment in the individual case. In cases where medical necessity is not established by policy for specific treatment modalities, evidence not previously considered regarding the efficacy of the modality that is presented shall be given consideration to determine if the policy represents current standards of care.

REFERENCES

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Local Coverage Determination (LCD): MoIDX: Molecular Diagnostic Tests (MDT) (L36256). Revision Effective Date: For services performed on or after 11/01/2019. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=36256>. Accessed 10/05/2020.
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Local Coverage Article (LCA): Billing and Coding: MoIDX: Afirma™ Assay by Veracyte (A54358). Revision Effective Date: 11/01/2019. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=54358>. Accessed 10/05/2020.
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Local Coverage Determination: MoIDX: NRAS Genetic Testing (L36339) Revision Effective Date: For services performed on or after 12/01/2019 <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=36339>. Accessed 10/05/2020.
4. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Local Coverage Article: Billing and Coding: MoIDX: NRAS Genetic Testing (A57487). Revision Effective Date: 12/01/2019. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=57487>. Accessed 10/05/2020.
5. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Biomarkers for Oncology (L35396). Effective 12/13/2020. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=35396>. Accessed 1/28/2021.
6. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Local Coverage Article: Billing and Coding: Biomarkers for Oncology (A52986). Revision Effective Date 01/01/2021. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=52986>. Accessed 03/15/2021.