MASSACHUSETTS

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Medical Policy

Systems Pathology in Prostate Cancer

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Policy Number: 250

BCBSA Reference Number: 2.04.64

Related Policies

- Saturation Biopsy of the Prostate, #307

Policy

Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity
Medicare Members: Managed Care HMO Blue[SM] and Medicare PPO Blue[SM]

Tests utilizing systems pathology that include cellular and biologic features of a tumor, including use in predicting risks of recurrence in patients with prostate cancer are **INVESTIGATIONAL**.

Prior Authorization Information

	Outpatient	Inpatient
Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)	This is not a covered service.	This is not a covered service.
Commercial PPO and Indemnity	This is not a covered service.	This is not a covered service.
Medicare HMO Blue[SM]	This is not a covered service.	This is not a covered service.
Medicare PPO Blue[SM]	This is not a covered service.	This is not a covered service.

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-9 Codes

The following codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

CPT Codes

There are no specific CPT code for this service.

ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes

Investigational for all diagnoses.

Description

Predicting risk of recurrence in patients undergoing treatment for prostate cancer is difficult, as it is for most malignancies. Systems pathology, an approach that combines cellular and biologic features to standard clinical parameters such as age, clinical or pathologic stage, grade, percent of cancer on biopsy cores, and prostate-specific antigen or its derivatives, is proposed as a way to estimate the probability of disease progression, either prior to or following prostatectomy.

Examples of system pathology tests include Prostate Px+ test and the Post-Op Px test (formerly called Prostate Px) from Aureon Laboratories. All systems pathology tests are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name or the laboratory performing the test.

Summary

Currently it is not known whether use of these models that use systems pathology will result in changes in care that lead to improved patient outcomes. Additional data are needed to answer this important question.

Studies are needed to determine which patients may benefit from this testing, as well as to determine when in the course of diagnosis and treatment the systems pathology assessment should be performed. There also should be further discussion about which outcomes are the best to be used in developing models; there can be substantial differences in models that predict PSA recurrence from those that predict metastatic disease and those that predict death. In addition, models may be needed that evaluate risk following treatments other than radical prostatectomy.

The value of using the systems pathology approach to determine risk is not known based on currently available studies. Thus, the impact on clinical outcomes is not known and the clinical utility of this testing is not known. Therefore, this testing is considered investigational.

Policy History

Date	Action
5/2014	New references from BCBSA National medical policy; titled changed.
5/2013	New references from BCBSA National medical policy.
11/2011- 04/2012	Medical policy ICD 10 remediation: Formatting, editing and coding updates. No changes to policy statements.
09/27/2011	Medical Policy Group – Urology, Obstetrics and Gynecology No changes to policy statements.
07/2011	2011 Medical Policy Group – Hematology and Oncology No changes to policy statements.
12/01/10	New policy, effective 12/1/10.

Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies

Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:

Medical Policy Terms of Use
Managed Care Guidelines
Indemnity/PPO Guidelines
Clinical Exception Process
Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines

References

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4. Cordon-Cardo C, Kotsianti A, Verbel DA et al. Improved prediction of prostate cancer recurrence through systems pathology. J Clin Invest 2007; 117(7):1876-83.
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