



MASSACHUSETTS

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Medical Policy Tumor Markers for Diagnosis and Management of Cancer

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Policy Number: 167

BCBSA Reference Number: N/A

NCD/LCD: N/A

Related Policies

- Analysis of Proteomic Patterns for Early Detection of Cancer #[536](#)
- CA-125 #[503](#)
- Non-BRCA Breast Cancer Risk Assessment (eg, OncoVue) #[188](#)
- Serum Biomarker Human Epididymis Protein 4 (HE4) #[290](#)
- Serum Tumor Markers for Breast and Gastrointestinal Malignancies #[538](#)
- Urinary Tumor Markers for Bladder Cancer #[502](#)

Policy¹

Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members

Chromogranin A (CgA) may be considered **MEDICALLY NECESSARY** when used to assist in the diagnosis and management of the following specific carcinoid tumors:

- Malignant carcinoid tumors of the small intestine
- Malignant carcinoid tumors of the appendix, large intestine, and rectum
- Malignant carcinoid tumors of other and unspecified sites
- Benign carcinoid tumors of the small intestine.

The use of CgA is considered **INVESTIGATIONAL** when used in the diagnosing and management of tumors other than specific carcinoid tumors identified in the policy.

The following tumor markers described by procedure code 86316 (immunoassay for tumor antigen) are considered **INVESTIGATIONAL**: **Exception:** when used to bill for Chromogranin A (CgA) when used to assist in the diagnosis and management of specific carcinoid tumors.

CA195 CAM17-1	CAR-3 DU-PAN-2	TAG12 TAG72.3	TNF-alpha TPS
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The following tumor markers for the diagnosis, prognosis, or monitoring of treatment of patients with cancer are considered **INVESTIGATIONAL**:

Breast Cancer	CA 195; CA 50; CA 549; CAM26; CAM29; CAR-3; CA-SCC; CA-SCC; CAM17-1; DMSA; Du-PAN-2; MCA; MSA; NSE; TAG 12; TAG 72.3; TNF-alpha; TPA; TPS
Colorectal, Gastric or Pancreatic Cancer Note: See NCD 210.3 for Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests	CA 195; CA 242; CA 50; CA 549; CA 72-4; CAM17-1; CAM-26; CAM29; CAR-3; CA-SCC; DMSA; Du-PAN-2; MCA; MCA; MSA; NSE; TAG 12; TAG 72.3; TNF-alpha; TPA; TPS
Liver Cancer	CA 242; CA 50; CA 72-4; TPA
Lung Cancer	CA-SCC; CYFRA 21-1; NSE; TPA
Ovarian Cancer Note: See LCD L38371	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPA Multiplex assay that measures the concentration of six serum proteins (including but limited to tests such as OvaSure™)

Prior Authorization Information

Inpatient

- For services described in this policy, precertification/preauthorization **IS REQUIRED** for all products if the procedure is performed **inpatient**.

Outpatient

- For services described in this policy, see below for products where prior authorization **might be required** if the procedure is performed **outpatient**.

	Outpatient
Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)	Prior authorization is not required .
Commercial PPO and Indemnity	Prior authorization is not required .
Medicare HMO BlueSM	Prior authorization is not required .
Medicare PPO BlueSM	Prior authorization is not required .

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD Codes

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. The following codes are included below for informational purposes only; this is not an all-inclusive list.

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

The above **medical necessity criteria MUST** be met for the following codes to be covered for Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, Indemnity, Medicare HMO Blue and Medicare PPO Blue:

CPT Codes

CPT codes:	Code Description
86316	Immunoassay for tumor antigen, other antigen, quantitative (eg, CA 50, 72-4, 549), each

The following ICD Diagnosis Codes are considered medically necessary when submitted with the CPT codes above if **medical necessity criteria** are met:

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes:	Code Description
C7A.019	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the small intestine, unspecified portion
C7A.010	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the duodenum
C7A.011	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the jejunum
C7A.012	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the ileum
C7A.029	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the large intestine, unspecified portion
C7A.020	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the appendix
C7A.021	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the cecum
C7A.022	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the ascending colon
C7A.023	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the transverse colon
C7A.024	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the descending colon
C7A.025	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the sigmoid colon
C7A.026	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the rectum
C7A.00	Malignant carcinoid tumor of unspecified site
C7A.090	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the bronchus and lung
C7A.091	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the thymus
C7A.092	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the stomach
C7A.094	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the foregut, unspecified
C7A.095	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the midgut, unspecified
C7A.096	Malignant carcinoid tumor of the hindgut, unspecified
D3A.019	Benign carcinoid tumor of the small intestine, unspecified portion
D3A.010	Benign carcinoid tumor of the duodenum
D3A.011	Benign carcinoid tumor of the jejunum
D3A.012	Benign carcinoid tumor of the ileum
D3A.029	Benign carcinoid tumor of the large intestine, unspecified portion
D3A.020	Benign carcinoid tumor of the appendix
D3A.021	Benign carcinoid tumor of the cecum
D3A.022	Benign carcinoid tumor of the ascending colon
D3A.023	Benign carcinoid tumor of the transverse colon
D3A.024	Benign carcinoid tumor of the descending colon
D3A.025	Benign carcinoid tumor of the sigmoid colon
D3A.026	Benign carcinoid tumor of the rectum
D3A.090	Benign carcinoid tumor of the bronchus and lung
D3A.092	Benign carcinoid tumor of the stomach
D3A.094	Benign carcinoid tumor of the foregut, unspecified
D3A.095	Benign carcinoid tumor of the midgut, unspecified
D3A.096	Benign carcinoid tumor of the hindgut, unspecified
D3A.098	Benign carcinoid tumors of other sites
E34.0	Carcinoid syndrome

Description

A tumor marker is an indicator of a particular disease state such as the presence of cancer that can be measured. Specimens for testing may include urine, body tissues, blood or other bodily fluids. Elevated levels of a tumor marker can indicate that an individual may have cancer. However, false positives can occur.

Summary

Tumor markers that are described in this policy for the diagnosis, prognosis, or monitoring of treatment of patients with cancer are considered investigational because they do not meet the [medical technology assessment guidelines #350](#).

Policy History

Date	Action
1/2023	Policy clarified to include reference to LCD/NCD under colorectal and ovarian cancer.
7/2022	Annual policy review. Policy reformatted. Policy statements unchanged.
2/2018	Clarified coding information.
10/2016	Clarified coding information.
11/2015	<p>Medical policy ICD-10 remediation: Formatting, editing and coding updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA): Policy statements describing medically necessary indications retired. PSA is a covered test. 11/1/2015 ○ Prostatic Acid Phosphatase (PAP): Policy statements describing medically necessary indications retired. PAP is a covered test. 11/1/2015 ○ Tumor Markers for Bladder Cancer: Policy statements describing ongoing medically necessary and investigational indications transferred to medical policy #502, Urinary Tumor Markers for Bladder Cancer. 11/2015 ○ CA 125: Policy statements describing ongoing medically necessary and investigational indications transferred to medical policy #503, CA 125. 11/1/2015 ○ CA 15-3; CA 19-9; CEA: Policy statements describing ongoing medically necessary and investigational indications transferred to medical policy #538, Serum Tumor Markers for Breast and Gastrointestinal Malignancies. 11/1/2015 ○ Analysis of Proteomic Patterns for Early Detection of Cancer: Policy statements describing ongoing investigational indications transferred to policy #536, Analysis of Proteomic Patterns for Early Detection of Cancer. 11/1/2015 ○ Alpha-Fetoprotein-L3 for Detection of Hepatocellular (Liver) Cancer: Policy statements describing ongoing investigational indications transferred to medical policy #504, Alpha-Fetoprotein-L3 for Detection of Hepatocellular (Liver) Cancer. 11/1/2015

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](#)

Endnotes

¹ Based on expert opinion - Chromogranin A (CgA) for carcinoid tumors

- <http://www.emedicine.com/med/TOPICT2649.HTM>
- J Clin Lab Anal. 1999; 13(6):312-9 (ISSN: 0887-8013)
- Schweiz Rundsch Med Prax. 2007; 96(1-2):19-28 (ISSN: 1013-2058)