MEDICAL POLICY

POLICY TITLE	EXPANDED MOLECULAR PANEL TESTING OF CANCERS TO IDENTIFY TARGETED THERAPIES
POLICY NUMBER	MP 2.259

Effective Date:	10/1/2023

POLICY
RATIONALE
DISCLAIMER
POLICY HISTORY
PRODUCT VARIATIONS
DEFINITIONS
CODING INFORMATION
DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND
BENEFIT VARIATIONS
REFERENCES

I. POLICY

Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) may be considered **medically necessary** when all of the following are met**:**

- Documentation is provided that the NCCN Biomarker Compendium provides at least 2A level of evidence to support the use of the test for the patient's specific cancer type; **AND**
- No other NGS testing has been performed on the patient's tumor (except when recurrent neoplastic disease following remission occasioned a new biopsy); **AND**
- Testing is being performed to direct therapy (medication selection, safety, or efficacy) OR as part of FDA label requirement.

All other indications for NGS are considered **investigational**. There is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure.

The use of expanded cancer mutation panels for selecting targeting cancer treatment is considered **investigational.** There is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) is a nonprofit alliance of cancer centers throughout the United States. NCCN develops the Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology which are recommendations aimed to help health care professionals diagnose, treat and manage patients with cancer. Guidelines evolve continuously as new treatments and diagnostics emerge and may be used by Capital Blue Cross when determining medical necessity according to this policy.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Genetics Nomenclature Update

The Human Genome Variation Society nomenclature is used to report information on variants found in DNA and serves as an international standard in DNA diagnostics. It is being implemented for genetic testing medical evidence review updates starting in 2017 (see Table PG1). The Society's nomenclature is recommended by the Human Variome Project, the Human Genome Organization, and by the Human Genome Variation Society itself.

POLICY TITLE	EXPANDED MOLECULAR PANEL TESTING OF CANCERS TO IDENTIFY TARGETED THERAPIES
POLICY NUMBER	MP 2.259

The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the Association for Molecular Pathology standards and guidelines for interpretation of sequence variants represent expert opinion from both organizations, in addition to the College of American Pathologists. These recommendations primarily apply to genetic tests used in clinical laboratories, including genotyping, single genes, panels, exomes, and genomes. Table PG2 shows the recommended standard terminology "pathogenic," "likely pathogenic," "uncertain significance," "likely benign," and "benign" to describe variants identified that cause Mendelian disorders.

Table PG1. Nomenclature to Report on Variants Found in DNA

Previous	Updated	Definition
Mutation	Disease-associated variant	Disease-associated change in the DNA sequence
	Variant	Change in the DNA sequence
	Familial variant	Disease-associated variant identified in a proband for use in subsequent targeted genetic testing in first-degree relatives

Table PG2. ACMG-AMP Standards and Guidelines for Variant Classification

Variant Classification	Definition
Pathogenic	Disease-causing change in the DNA sequence
Likely pathogenic	Likely disease-causing change in the DNA sequence
Variant of uncertain significance	Change in DNA sequence with uncertain effects on disease
Likely benign	Likely benign change in the DNA sequence
Benign	Benign change in the DNA sequence

ACMG: American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics; AMP: Association for Molecular Pathology.

Cross-reference:

MP 2.316 Somatic Biomarker Testing (including liquid biopsy) for Targerted Treatment and Immunotherapy in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (KRAS, NRAS, BRAF, MMR-MSI, HER2 and TMB)
MP 2.323 General Approach to Evaluating the Utility of Genetic Panels
MP 2.325 Genetic Cancer Susceptibility Panels using Next Generation Sequencing
MP 2.241 Molecular Analysis for Targeted Therapy for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
MP 2.364 Somatic Genetic Testing to Select Individuals with Melanoma or Glioma for Targeted Therapy or Immunotherapy

II. PRODUCT VARIATIONS

TOP

This policy is only applicable to certain programs and products administered by Capital Blue Cross please see additional information below, and subject to benefit variations as discussed in Section VI below.

POLICY TITLE	EXPANDED MOLECULAR PANEL TESTING OF CANCERS TO IDENTIFY TARGETED THERAPIES
POLICY NUMBER	MP 2.259

FEP PPO: FEP PPO - Refer to FEP Medical Policy Manual. The FEP Medical Policy manual can be found at: https://www.fepblue.org/benefit-plans/medical-policies-and-utilization-management-guidelines/medical-policies.

III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

TOP

Traditional Therapeutic Approaches to Cancer

Tumor location, grade, stage, and the patient's underlying physical condition have traditionally been used in clinical oncology to determine the therapeutic approach to a specific cancer, which could include surgical resection, ionizing radiation, systemic chemotherapy, or combinations thereof. Currently, some 100 different types are broadly categorized according to the tissue, organ, or body compartment in which they arise. Most treatment approaches in clinical care were developed and evaluated in studies that recruited subjects and categorized results based on this traditional classification scheme.

This traditional approach to cancer treatment does not reflect the wide diversity of cancer at the molecular level. While treatment by organ type, stage, and grade may demonstrate statistically significant therapeutic efficacy overall, only a subgroup of patients may derive clinically significant benefit. It is unusual for a cancer treatment to be effective for all patients treated in a traditional clinical trial. Spear et al (2001) analyzed the efficacy of major drugs used to treat several important diseases. They reported heterogeneity of therapeutic responses, noting a low rate of 25% for cancer chemotherapeutics, with response rates for most drugs falling in the range of 50% to 75%. The low rate for cancer treatments is indicative of the need for better identification of characteristics associated with treatment response and better targeting of treatment to have higher rates of therapeutic responses.

Targeted Cancer Therapy

Much of the variability in clinical response may result from genetic variations. Within each broad type of cancer, there may be a large amount of variability in the genetic underpinnings of the cancer. Targeted cancer treatment refers to the identification of genetic abnormalities present in the cancer of a particular patient, and the use of drugs that target the specific genetic abnormality. The use of genetic markers allows cancers to be further classified by "pathways" defined at the molecular level. An expanding number of genetic markers have been identified. These may be categorized into 3 classes: (1) genetic markers that have a direct impact on care for the specific cancer of interest, (2) genetic markers that may be biologically important but are not currently actionable, and (3) genetic markers of uncertain importance.

A smaller number of individual genetic markers fall into the first category (i.e., have established utility for a particular cancer type). The utility of these markers has been demonstrated by randomized controlled trials that select patients with the marker and report significant improvements in outcomes with targeted therapy compared with standard therapy. Testing for individual variants with established utility is not covered in this evidence review. In some cases, limited panels may be offered that are specific to one type of cancer (e.g., a panel of several

markers for non-small-cell lung cancer). This review also does not address the use of cancer-specific panels that include a few variants. Rather, this review addresses expanded panels that test for many potential variants that do not have established efficacy for the specific cancer in question.

When advanced cancers are tested with expanded molecular panels, most patients are found to have at least 1 potentially pathogenic variant. The number of variants varies widely by types of cancers, different variants included in testing, and different testing methods among the available studies. In a study by Schwaederle et al (2015), 439 patients with diverse cancers were tested with a 236-gene panel. A total of 1813 molecular alterations were identified, and almost all patients (420/439 [96%]) had at least 1 molecular alteration. The median number of alterations per patient was 3, and 85% (372/439) of patients had 2 or more alterations. The most common alterations were in the *TP53* (44%), *KRAS* (16%), and *PIK3CA* (12%) genes.

Some evidence is available on the generalizability of targeted treatment based on a specific variant among cancers that originate from different organs. There are several examples of variant-directed treatment that is effective in 1 type of cancer but ineffective in another. For example, targeted therapy for epidermal growth factor receptor variants have been successful in non-small-cell lung cancer but not in trials of other cancer types. Treatment with tyrosine kinase inhibitors based on variant testing has been effective for renal cell carcinoma but has not demonstrated effectiveness for other cancer types tested. “Basket” studies, in which tumors of various histologic types that share a common genetic variant are treated with a targeted agent, also have been performed. One such study was published by Hyman et al (2015). In this study, 122 patients with *BRAF* V600 variants in nonmelanoma cancers were treated with vemurafenib. The authors reported that there appeared to be antitumor activity for some but not all cancers, with the most promising results seen for non-small-cell lung cancer, Erdheim-Chester disease, and Langerhans cell histiocytosis.

Expanded Cancer MOLECULAR Panels

Table 1 Provides a select list of commercially available expanded cancer molecular panels.

Table 1 Commercially Available Molecular Panels for Solid and Hematologic Tumor Testing

Test	Manufacturer	Tumor Type	Technology
FoundationOne®CDx test (F1CDx)	Foundation Medicine	Solid	NGS
FoundationOne®CDx Heme test	Foundation Medicine	Hematologic	RNA sequencing
OnkoMatch™	GenPath Diagnostics	Solid	Multiplex PCR
GeneTrails® Solid Tumor Panel	Knight Diagnostic Labs	Solid	
Tumor profiling service	Caris Molecular Intelligence	Solid	Multiple technologies

	through Caris Life Sciences		
SmartGenomics™	PathGroup	Solid and hematologic	NGS, cytogenomic array, other technologies
Paradigm Cancer Diagnostic (PcDx™) Panel	Paradigm	Solid	NGS
MSK-IMPACT™	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Solid	NGS
TruSeq® Amplicon Panel		Solid	NGS
TruSight™ Oncology	Illumina	Solid	NGS
Ion AmpliSeq™ Comprehensive Cancer Panel		Solid	NGS
Ion AmpliSeq™ Cancer Hotspot Panel v2	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Solid	NGS
OmniSeq Comprehensive	OmniSeq	Solid	NGS
Oncomine DX Target Test™	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Solid	NGS
Omics Core (SM)	NantHealth	Solid	WES
PGDx elio tissue complete™	Personal Genome Diagnostics	Solid	NGS
NYU Langone Genome PACT assay	NYU Langone Medical Center	Solid	NGS

NGS: next-generation sequencing; PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

Regulatory Status

Clinical laboratories may develop and validate tests in-house and market them as a laboratory service; laboratory-developed tests must meet the general regulatory standards of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments. Laboratories that offer laboratory-developed tests must be licensed by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments for high-complexity testing.

In 2017, FoundationOne CDx (Foundation Medicine) received premarket approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (P170019) as a companion diagnostic to identify patients who may benefit from treatment with the targeted therapies listed in Table 2. "Additionally, F1CDx is intended to provide tumor mutation profiling to be used by qualified health care professionals in accordance with professional guidelines in oncology for patients with solid malignant neoplasms." FDA product code: PQP

In 2017, the Oncomine DX Target Test (Life Technologies Corp) received premarket approval by the FDA (P160045) to aid in selecting non-small cell lung cancer patients for treatment with approved targeted therapies. FDA product code: PQP

MSK-IMPACT (Memorial Sloan Kettering) received de novo marketing clearance in 2017 (DEN170058). "The test is intended to provide information on somatic mutations (point mutations and small insertions and deletions) and microsatellite instability for use by qualified health care professionals in accordance with professional guidelines, and is not conclusive or prescriptive for labeled use of any specific therapeutic product." FDA product code: PZM

Subsequent marketing clearance through the FDA's 510(k) process (FDA product code PZM) include the following:

- Omics Core (NantHealth) received marketing clearance in 2019 (K190661). The test is intended to provide information on somatic mutations (point mutations and small insertions and deletions) and tumor mutational burden.
- PGDx elio tissue complete (Personal Genome Diagnostics) received marketing clearance in 2020 (K192063). PGDx elio tissue complete is "intended to provide tumor mutation profiling information on somatic alterations (SNVs [single nucleotide variants], small insertions and deletions, one amplification and 4 translocations), microsatellite instability and tumor mutation burden (TMB)".
- The NYU Langone Genome PACT assay (NYU Langone Medical Center) is a 607-gene panel that received marketing clearance by the FDA in 2021 (K202304). The test assesses somatic point mutations, insertions and deletions smaller than 35 base pairs.

The intended use is by qualified health care professionals in accordance with professional guidelines for oncology, and not prescriptive for use of any specific therapeutic product.

OmniSeq Comprehensive® is approved by the New York State Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program.

Table 2. Companion diagnostic indications for FoundationOne CDx

Indication	Biomarker	Therapy
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	*EGFR* exon 19 deletions and *EGFR* exon 21 L858R alterations	Gilotrif® (afatinib), Iressa® (gefitinib), Tagrisso® (osimertinib) or Tarceva® (erlotinib)
	EGFR exon 20 T790M alterations	Tagrisso® (osimertinib)
	ALK rearrangements	Alecensa® (alectinib), Xalkori® (crizotinib), or Zykadia® (ceritinib)
	BRAF V600E	Tafinlar® (dabrafenib) in combination with Mekinist® (trametinib)

	MET	Tabrecta(TM) (capmatinib)
	ROS1 fusions	Rozlytrek® (entrectinib)
Melanoma	*BRAF* V600E	Tafinlar® (dabrafenib) or Zelboraf® (vemurafenib)
	BRAF V600E and V600K	Mekinist® (trametinib) or Cotellic® (cobimetinib) in combination with Zelboraf® (vemurafenib)
Breast cancer	*ERBB2* (HER2) amplification	Herceptin® (trastuzumab), Kadcyla® (ado-trastuzumab-emtansine), or Perjeta® (pertuzumab)
	PIK3CA alterations	Lynparza® (olaparib)
Colorectal cancer	*KRAS* wild-type (absence of mutations in codons 12 and 13)	Erbitux® (cetuximab)
	KRAS wild-type (absence of mutations in exons 2, 3, and 4) and *NRAS* wild type (absence of mutations in exons 2, 3, and 4)	Vectibix® (panitumumab)
Ovarian cancer	*BRCA1/2* alterations	Lynparza® (olaparib) or Rubraca® (rucaparib)
Cholangiocarcinoma	*FGFR2* fusion or other select *rearrangements*	Pemazyre(TM) (pemigatinib) or Truseltiq fgv™ (infigratinib)
Prostate cancer	Homologous Recombination Repair (HRR) gene alterations	Lynparza® (olaparib)
Solid Tumors	Tumor mutational burden >10 mutations per megabase	Keytruda® (pembrolizumab)
	Microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H)	Keytruda® (pembrolizumab)
	NTRK1/2/3 fusions	lVitrakvi® (larotrectinib) or Rozlytrek® (entrectinib)

IV. RATIONALE

TOP

Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have advanced cancer that is being considered for targeted therapy who receive comprehensive genomic profiling of tumor tissue, the evidence includes an RCT , nonrandomized trials, and systematic reviews of these studies. Relevant outcomes are OS, disease-specific survival, test validity, and quality of life. A large number of variants and many types of cancer preclude determination of the clinical validity of the panels as a whole, and clinical utility has not been demonstrated for the use of expanded molecular panels to direct targeted cancer treatment. The 1 published randomized controlled trial (SHIVA trial) that used an expanded panel reported no difference in PFS compared with standard treatment. Additional randomized and nonrandomized trials for drug development, along with systematic reviews of these trials, have compared outcomes in patients who received molecularly targeted treatment with patients who did not. Generally, trials in which therapy was targeted to a gene variant resulted in improved response rates, PFS, and OS compared to patients in trials who did not receive targeted therapy. A major limitation in the relevance of these studies for comprehensive genomic profiling is that treatment in these trials was guided both by the tissue source and the molecular target for drug development, rather than being matched solely by the molecular marker (ie, basket trials). As a result, these types of studies do not provide evidence of the benefit of broad molecular profiling compared to more limited genetic assessments based on known tumor-specific variants. Basket trials that randomize patients with various tumor types to a strategy of comprehensive genomic profiling followed by targeted treatment are needed, and several are ongoing. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

V. DEFINITIONS

TOP

NA

VI. BENEFIT VARIATIONS

TOP

The existence of this medical policy does not mean that this service is a covered benefit under the member's health benefit plan. Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable health benefit plan language. Medical policies do not constitute a description of benefits. A member's health benefit plan governs which services are covered, which are excluded, which are subject to benefit limits and which require preauthorization. There are different benefit plan designs in each product administered by Capital Blue Cross. Members and providers should consult the member's health benefit plan for information or contact Capital Blue Cross for benefit information.

VII. DISCLAIMER

TOP

Capital Blue Cross's medical policies are developed to assist in administering a member's benefits, do not constitute medical advice and are subject to change. Treating providers are solely responsible for medical advice and treatment of members. Members should discuss any medical policy related to their coverage or condition with their provider and consult their benefit information to determine if the service is covered. If there is a discrepancy between this medical

policy and a member's benefit information, the benefit information will govern. If a provider or a member has a question concerning the application of this medical policy to a specific member's plan of benefits, please contact Capital Blue Cross' Provider Services or Member Services. Capital Blue Cross considers the information contained in this medical policy to be proprietary and it may only be disseminated as permitted by law.

VIII. CODING INFORMATION

TOP

Note: This list of codes may not be all-inclusive, and codes are subject to change at any time. The identification of a code in this section does not denote coverage as coverage is determined by the terms of member benefit information. In addition, not all covered services are eligible for separate reimbursement.

Investigational; therefore, not covered when used to bill for expanded cancer mutation panels for selecting targeted cancer treatment:

CPT Codes®								
0009U	0036U	0211U	0249U	0391U	81479	0409U		

Covered when medically necessary:

CPT Codes®								
0037U	0239U	0242U	0244U	0250U	0326U	0334U		

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
C18.0	Malignant neoplasm of cecum
C18.1	Malignant neoplasm of appendix
C18.2	Malignant neoplasm of ascending colon
C18.3	Malignant neoplasm of hepatic flexure
C18.4	Malignant neoplasm of transverse colon
C18.5	Malignant neoplasm of splenic flexure
C18.6	Malignant neoplasm of descending colon
C18.7	Malignant neoplasm of sigmoid colon
C18.8	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of colon
C18.9	Malignant neoplasm of colon, unspecified
C19	Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction
C20	Malignant neoplasm of rectum
C21.0	Malignant neoplasm of anus, unspecified

POLICY TITLE	EXPANDED MOLECULAR PANEL TESTING OF CANCERS TO IDENTIFY TARGETED THERAPIES
POLICY NUMBER	MP 2.259

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
C21.1	Malignant neoplasm of anal canal
C21.2	Malignant neoplasm of cloacogenic zone
C34.00	Malignant neoplasm of unspecified main bronchus
C34.00	Malignant neoplasm of unspecified main bronchus
C34.01	Malignant neoplasm of right main bronchus
C34.01	Malignant neoplasm of right main bronchus
C34.02	Malignant neoplasm of left main bronchus
C34.02	Malignant neoplasm of left main bronchus
C34.10	Malignant neoplasm of upper lobe, unspecified bronchus or lung
C34.11	Malignant neoplasm of upper lobe, right bronchus or lung
C34.12	Malignant neoplasm of upper lobe, left bronchus or lung
C34.30	Malignant neoplasm of lower lobe, unspecified bronchus or lung
C34.31	Malignant neoplasm of lower lobe, right bronchus or lung
C34.32	Malignant neoplasm of lower lobe, left bronchus or lung
C34.80	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of unspecified bronchus and lung
C34.81	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of right bronchus and lung
C34.82	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of left bronchus and lung
C34.90	Malignant neoplasm of unspecified part of unspecified bronchus or lung
C34.91	Malignant neoplasm of unspecified part of right bronchus or lung
C34.92	Malignant neoplasm of unspecified part of left bronchus or lung
C43.0	Malignant melanoma of lip
C43.10	Malignant melanoma of unspecified eyelid, including canthus
C43.11	Malignant melanoma of right eyelid, including canthus
C43.20	Malignant melanoma of unspecified ear and external auricular canal
C43.30	Malignant melanoma of unspecified part of face
C43.31	Malignant melanoma of nose
C43.39	Malignant melanoma of other parts of face
C43.4	Malignant melanoma of scalp and neck
C43.51	Malignant melanoma of anal skin
C43.59	Malignant melanoma of other part of trunk
C43.8	Malignant melanoma of overlapping sites of skin
C43.9	Malignant melanoma of skin, unspecified
C50.011	Malignant neoplasm of nipple and areola, right female breast
C50.012	Malignant neoplasm of nipple and areola, left female breast

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
C50.019	Malignant neoplasm of nipple and areola, unspecified female breast
C50.021	Malignant neoplasm of nipple and areola, right male breast
C50.022	Malignant neoplasm of nipple and areola, left male breast
C50.029	Malignant neoplasm of nipple and areola, unspecified male breast
C50.111	Malignant neoplasm of central portion of right female breast
C50.112	Malignant neoplasm of central portion of left female breast
C50.119	Malignant neoplasm of central portion of unspecified female breast
C50.121	Malignant neoplasm of central portion of right male breast
C50.811	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of right female breast
C50.812	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of left female breast
C56.1	Malignant neoplasm of right ovary
C56.2	Malignant neoplasm of left ovary
C56.3	Malignant neoplasm of bilateral ovaries
C56.9	Malignant neoplasm of unspecified ovary

IX. REFERENCES

TOP

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X. POLICY HISTORY

Top

MP 2.259	**12/3/20 Administrative update.** New code 0239U added as covered with criteria. Effective 1/1/2021
	2/1/2021 Administrative update. New codes 0242U and 0244U added as covered with criteria. Effective 4/1/2021.

POLICY TITLE	EXPANDED MOLECULAR PANEL TESTING OF CANCERS TO IDENTIFY TARGETED THERAPIES
POLICY NUMBER	MP 2.259

	06/15/2021 – Coding updated: Added new codes 0249U and 0250U
	9/7/2021 Administrative update. New ICD-10 code C56.3 added. Effective 10/1/2021
	9/17/2021 Consensus review. No changes to policy statement. NCCN language added. FEP language updated. Added additional Cross Referenced policies. Background, Rationale and References updated.
	6/10/2022 Admin update. Added new code 0326U.
	9/12/2022 Admin update. Added New Codes 0339U & 0334U.
	12/21/2022 Consensus. No change to policy statement. 0339U was not previously added to policy. Removed 0111U. References updated.
	6/13/2023 Admin update. Added new code 0391U Effective 7/1/23.
	9/7/2023: Admin update. Added new code 0409U effective 10/1/23

Top