

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

<b>CLINICAL BENEFIT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> MINIMIZE SAFETY RISK OR CONCERN. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MINIMIZE HARMFUL OR INEFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS. <input type="checkbox"/> ASSURE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CARE. <input type="checkbox"/> ASSURE APPROPRIATE DURATION OF SERVICE FOR INTERVENTIONS. <input type="checkbox"/> ASSURE THAT RECOMMENDED MEDICAL PREREQUISITES HAVE BEEN MET. <input type="checkbox"/> ASSURE APPROPRIATE SITE OF TREATMENT OR SERVICE.
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>4/1/2025</b>

[POLICY RATIONALE](#)  
[DISCLAIMER](#)  
[POLICY HISTORY](#)

[PRODUCT VARIATIONS](#)  
[DEFINITIONS](#)  
[CODING INFORMATION](#)

[DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND](#)  
[BENEFIT VARIATIONS](#)  
[REFERENCES](#)

### I. POLICY

#### Cerebrospinal Fluid and Urinary Biomarkers for Alzheimer Disease

Measurement of cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers of Alzheimer disease, including but not limited to tau protein, amyloid beta peptides, or neural thread proteins, is considered **investigational**, as there is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure.

Measurement of urinary biomarkers of Alzheimer disease is considered **investigational**, including but not limited to neural thread proteins, as there is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure.

#### Genetic Testing for Diagnosis of Alzheimer Disease

Targeted genetic testing for a known familial variant in the presenilin (*PSEN*) genes or amyloid-beta precursor protein (*APP*) gene associated with autosomal dominant early-onset Alzheimer disease may be considered **medically necessary** in an asymptomatic individual to determine future risk of disease when the following criteria are met:

- The individual has a close relative (i.e., first- or second-degree relative) with a known familial variant associated with autosomal dominant early-onset Alzheimer disease; **and**
- Results of testing will inform reproductive decision-making.

Genetic testing for variants in presenilin (*PSEN*) genes or amyloid-beta precursor protein (*APP*) gene associated with autosomal dominant early-onset Alzheimer disease may be considered **medically necessary** in an asymptomatic individual to determine future risk of disease when the following criteria are met:

- The individual has a family history of dementia consistent with autosomal dominant Alzheimer disease for whom the genetic status of the affected family members is unavailable; **and**
- Results of testing will inform reproductive decision-making.

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

Genetic testing for the risk assessment of Alzheimer disease in asymptomatic individuals is considered **investigational** in all other situations, as there is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure. Genetic testing includes but is not limited to, testing for the apolipoprotein E ε4 allele (*APOE*), or triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 2 (*TREM2*).

### POLICY GUIDELINES

#### Genetic Testing for Diagnosis of Alzheimer Disease

Genetic testing for Alzheimer disease (AD) may be offered along with analysis of cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) levels of the tau protein and amyloid-β peptide 1-42. This group of tests may be collectively referred to as the ADmark™ Profile, offered by Athena Diagnostics.

#### Testing Strategy

The 2011 guidelines from the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the National Society of Genetic Counselors recommended that genetic testing for early-onset, autosomal dominant AD should only occur in the context of genetic counseling with support by someone expert in the area. In asymptomatic patients, a testing protocol based on the 1994 International Huntington Association and World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Huntington’s Chorea guidelines has been recommended. Consultation of the Alzheimer Disease & Frontotemporal Dementia Mutation Database has also been recommended before disclosure of genetic test results.

A family history of autosomal dominant AD is suggested by 3 affected members in two generations. In individuals at risk of early-onset, autosomal dominant AD, ideally, an affected family member should be tested first to identify the familial variant. If no affected family member is available for testing and an asymptomatic individual remains interested in testing to inform reproductive decision making, then in-depth sequencing of the 3 genes (*APP*, *PSEN1*, *PSEN2*) associated with autosomal dominant AD may be indicated.

#### 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 policy 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.

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.

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

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 Variant Found in DNA**

Previous	Updated	Definition
<b>Mutation</b>	<b>Disease-associated variant</b>	<b>Disease-associated change in the DNA sequence.</b>
	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 Classifications**

Variant Classification	Definition
<b>Pathogenic</b>	Disease-associated causing change in the DNA sequence.
<b>Likely pathogenic</b>	Likely disease-causing change in the DNA sequence.
<b>Variant of uncertain significance</b>	Change in DNA sequence with uncertain effect on disease.
<b>Likely benign</b>	Likely benign change in the DNA sequence.
<b>Benign</b>	Benign change in the DNA sequence.

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

### Genetic Counseling

Experts recommend formal genetic counseling for patients who are at risk for inherited disorders and who wish to undergo genetic testing. Interpreting the results of genetic tests and understanding risk factors can be difficult for some patients; genetic counseling helps individuals understand the impact of genetic testing, including the possible effects the test results could have on the individual or their family members. It should be noted that genetic counseling may alter the utilization of genetic testing substantially and may reduce inappropriate testing; further, genetic counseling should be performed by an individual with experience and expertise in genetic medicine and genetic testing methods.

## II. PRODUCT VARIATIONS

[TOP](#)

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

**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>

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

### III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

[TOP](#)

#### Cerebrospinal Fluid and Urinary Biomarkers for Alzheimer Disease

##### Biomarkers

Several potential biomarkers of AD are associated with AD pathophysiology (e.g., amyloid beta plaques, neurofibrillary tangles). Altered cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) levels of specific proteins have been found in patients with AD. These include tau protein, phosphorylated at AD-specific epitopes such as phosphorylated threonine 181 or total tau protein, an amyloid beta peptide such as 1-42 (A $\beta$ 42), and the synaptic protein, neurogranin. Other potential CSF urinary, and blood peptide markers have been explored. Tau protein is a microtubule-associated molecule found in neurofibrillary tangles that are typical of AD. Tau protein is thought to be related to degenerating and dying neurons and high levels of tau protein in the CSF have been associated with AD. Amyloid beta-42 is a subtype of amyloid beta peptide produced from the metabolism of the amyloid precursor protein. Amyloid beta-42 is the key peptide deposited in amyloid plaques characteristic of AD. Low levels of amyloid beta-42 in the CSF have been associated with AD, perhaps because amyloid beta-42 is deposited in amyloid plaques instead of remaining in the fluid. Investigators have suggested the tau/amyloid beta-42 ratio may be a more accurate diagnostic marker than either alone. Neurogranin is a dendritic protein and CSF measurement may serve as a biomarker for dendritic instability and synaptic degeneration. Elevated CSF neurogranin may predict prodromal AD in MCI and has been confirmed in AD dementia and prodromal AD in several studies.

A variety of kits are commercially available to measure amyloid beta-42 and tau proteins. Between-laboratory variability in CSF biomarker measurement is large. Neural thread protein is associated with neurofibrillary tangles of AD. Both CSF and urine levels of this protein have been investigated as a potential marker of AD. Urine and CSF tests for neural thread protein may be referred to as the AD7C test.

More recently, research has focused on blood as a new matrix for AD biomarkers that have already been validated in the CSF. As blood is more accessible than CSF, blood sampling would be preferable to CSF when taking samples to measure AD biomarkers, both for clinical diagnosis or screening. However, developing blood AD biomarkers has proven complex. While the CSF is continuous with the brain extracellular fluid, with a free exchange of molecules from the brain to the CSF, only a fraction of brain proteins enters the bloodstream. Examples of blood biomarkers that are currently under examination for use in AD include amyloid beta, tau protein, and neurofilament light. In a recent retrospective multicohort diagnostic performance study, both plasma tau phosphorylated at threonine 217 (p-tau217) and at threonine 181 (p-tau181) had excellent diagnostic performance for differentiating patients with AD syndromes from other neurodegenerative disorders. At this time, although a growing area of research, blood AD biomarkers are not addressed in this review.

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

### 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. AlzheimerAlert™ and AdMark® CSF analysis are available under the auspices 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. To date, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has chosen not to require any regulatory review of this test.

### Genetic Testing for Diagnosis of Alzheimer Disease

Alzheimer disease (AD) is commonly associated with a family history; 40% of patients with AD have a least one other afflicted first-degree relative. Numerous genes have been associated with late-onset AD, while variants in chromosomes 1, 14, and 21 have been associated with early-onset familial AD.

### Genetic Variants

Individuals with early-onset familial AD (i.e., before age 65 years but as early as 30 years) form a small subset of AD patients. AD within families of these patients may show an autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance. Pathogenic variants in three genes have been identified in affected families: the amyloid-beta precursor protein (*APP*) gene, presenilin 1 (*PSEN1*) gene, and presenilin 2 (*PSEN2*) gene. *APP* and *PSEN1* variants have 100% penetrance absent death from other causes, while *PSEN2* has 95% penetrance. Variants within these genes have been associated with AD; variants in *PSEN1* appear to be the most common. While only 3% to 5% of all patients with AD have early-onset disease, pathogenic variants have been identified in 70% or more of these patients. Identifiable genetic variants are, therefore, rare causes of AD.

Testing for the apolipoprotein ε4 allele (*APOE\*E4*) among patients with late-onset AD and for *APP*, *PSEN1*, or *PSEN2* pathogenic variants in the rare patient with early-onset AD has been investigated as an aid in diagnosis of patients presenting with symptoms suggestive of AD, or as a technique for risk assessment in asymptomatic patients with a family history of AD. Pathogenic variants in *PSEN1* and *PSEN2* are specific for AD; *APP* variants are also found in cerebral hemorrhagic amyloidosis of the Dutch type, a disease in which dementia and brain amyloid plaques are uncommon.

The *APOE* lipoprotein is a carrier of cholesterol produced in the liver and brain glial cells. The *APOE* gene has three alleles—ε2, 3, and 4—with the ε3 allele being the most common. Individuals carry 2 *APOE* alleles. The presence of at least one ε4 allele is associated with a 1.2- to 3-fold increased risk of AD, depending on the ethnic group. Among those homozygous for epsilon 4 (≈2% of the population), the risk of AD is higher than for those heterozygous for ε4. Mean age of onset of AD is about age 68 years for ε4 homozygotes, about 77 years for heterozygotes, and about 85 years for those with no ε4 alleles. About half of patients with sporadic AD carry an ε4 allele. However, not all patients with the allele develop AD. The ε4 allele represents a risk factor for AD rather than a disease-associated variant. In the absence of

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

*APOE* testing, first-degree relatives of an individual with sporadic or familial AD are estimated to have a 2- to 4-fold greater risk of developing AD than the general population. There is evidence of possible interactions between  $\epsilon 4$  alleles, other risk factors for AD (eg, risk factors for cerebrovascular disease such as smoking, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes), and a higher risk of developing AD. However, it is not clear that all risk factors have been taken into account in such studies, including the presence of variants in other genes that may increase the risk of AD.

Studies have also identified rs75932628-T, a rare functional substitution for R47H on the triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 2 (*TREM2*), as a heterozygous risk variant for late-onset AD. On chromosome 6p21.1, at position 47 (R47H), the T allele of rs75932628 encodes a histidine substitute for arginine in the gene that encodes *TREM2*.

*TREM2* is highly expressed in the brain and is known to have a role in regulating inflammation and phagocytosis. *TREM2* may serve a protective role in the brain by suppressing inflammation and clearing it of cell debris, amyloids, and toxic products. A decrease in the function of *TREM2* would allow inflammation in the brain to increase and may be a factor in the development of AD. The effect size of the *TREM2* variant confers a risk of AD that is similar to the *APOE*\**E4* allele, although it occurs less frequently.

### Diagnosis

The diagnosis of AD is divided into three categories: possible, probable, and definite AD. A diagnosis of definite AD requires postmortem confirmation of AD pathology, documenting the presence of extracellular  $\beta$ -amyloid plaques and intraneuronal neurofibrillary tangles in the cerebral cortex. As a result, a diagnosis of definite AD cannot be made during life, and the diagnosis of probable or possible AD is made on clinical grounds. Probable AD dementia is diagnosed clinically when the patient meets core clinical criteria for dementia and has a typical clinical course for AD. Criteria for diagnosis of probable AD have been developed by the National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association. These criteria require evidence of a specific pattern of cognitive impairment, a typical clinical course, and exclusion of other potential etiologies, as follows:

- Cognitive impairment
  - Cognitive impairment established by history from the patient and a knowledgeable informant, plus objective assessment by bedside mental status examination or neuropsychological testing.
  - Cognitive impairment involving a minimum of two of the following domains:
    - Impaired ability to acquire and remember new information.
    - Impaired reasoning and handling of complex tasks, poor judgment.
    - Impaired visuospatial abilities.
    - Impaired language functions.
    - Changes in personality, behavior, or comporment.

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

- Initial and most prominent cognitive deficits are one of the following:
  - Amnestic presentation.
  - Non-amnestic presentations, either a language presentation with prominent word-finding deficits; a visuospatial presentation with visual cognitive defects; or a dysexecutive presentation with prominent impairment of reasoning, judgment, and/or problem-solving.
- Clinical course
  - Insidious onset.
  - Clear-cut history of worsening over time.
  - Interference with the ability to function at work or usual activities.
  - Decline from previous level of functioning and performing.
- Exclusion of other disorders
  - Cognitive decline not explained by delirium or major psychiatric disorder.
  - No evidence of other active neurologic disease, including substantial cerebrovascular disease or dementia with Lewy bodies.
  - Lack of prominent features of variant frontotemporal dementia or primary progressive aphasia.
  - No medication used with substantial effects on cognition.

A diagnosis of possible AD dementia is made when the patient meets most of the AD criteria but has an atypical course or an etiologically mixed presentation. This may consist of an atypical onset (e.g., sudden onset) or atypical progression. A diagnosis of possible AD is also made when there is another potentially causative systemic or neurologic disorder that is not thought to be the primary etiology of dementia.

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is a precursor of AD in many instances. MCI may be diagnosed when there is a change in cognition, but insufficient impairment for the diagnosis of dementia. Features of MCI are evidence of impairment in one or more cognitive domains and preservation of independence in functional abilities. In some patients, MCI may be a prodementia phase of AD. Patients with MCI may undergo ancillary testing (e.g., neuroimaging, laboratory studies, neuropsychological assessment) to rule out vascular, traumatic, and medical causes of cognitive decline and to evaluate genetic factors.

Biomarker evidence has been integrated into the diagnostic criteria for probable and possible AD for use in research settings. Other diagnostic tests for AD include cerebrospinal fluid levels of tau protein or APP, as well as positron emission tomography amyloid imaging.

### 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

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

Laboratory Improvement Amendments. Lab tests listed in Tables 1 and 3 are available under the auspices 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. To date, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has chosen not to require any regulatory review of this test.

### IV. RATIONALE

[TOP](#)

#### **Summary of Evidence: Cerebrospinal Fluid and Urinary Biomarkers**

For individuals who have AD or mild cognitive impairment who receive cerebrospinal fluid biomarker testing for AD, the evidence includes systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and case series. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, morbid events, functional outcomes, quality of life, medication use, and resource utilization. The technical reliability of cerebrospinal fluid biomarker measurement in AD is limited by variability between laboratories and assay methods. Most clinical validity studies have been derived from select patient samples and defined optimal test cutoffs without validation; thus, the generalizability of results is uncertain. For predicting conversion from mild cognitive impairment to AD, limited evidence has suggested that testing may define increased risk. Whether an earlier diagnosis leads to improved health outcomes through delay of AD onset due to medical therapy or other interventions or improved quality of life is unknown. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who have AD or mild cognitive impairment who receive urinary biomarker testing for AD, the evidence includes a systematic review and observational studies. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, morbid events, functional outcomes, quality of life, medication use, and resource utilization. Limited data are available on the technical reliability of urinary biomarker measurement in AD. Clinical validity studies have included normal healthy controls and defined optimal test cutoffs without validation; thus, clinical validity is uncertain. Whether an earlier diagnosis leads to improved health outcomes through delay of AD onset or improved quality of life is unknown. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

#### **Summary of Evidence: Genetic Testing**

For individuals who are asymptomatic and at risk for developing late-onset AD who receive genetic testing, the evidence includes studies on gene associations, test accuracy, and effects on health outcomes. Relevant outcomes are test accuracy and validity, change in disease status, health status measures, and quality of life. Many genes, including *APOE*, *CR1*, *BIN1*, *PICALM*, and *TREM2*, are associated with late-onset AD. However, the sensitivity and specificity of genetic testing for indicating which individuals will progress to AD is low, and numerous other factors can affect progression.

Overall, genetic testing has not been shown to add value to the diagnosis of AD made clinically. The current lack of effective methods to prevent the onset of AD or to target AD treatments

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

based on genetic characteristics limits the clinical benefit for genetic testing. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who are asymptomatic, at risk for developing early-onset, autosomal dominant AD, and have a known familial variant who receive targeted genetic testing, the evidence includes studies on gene associations and test accuracy. Relevant outcomes are test accuracy and validity, change in disease status, change in reproductive decision making, health status measures, and quality of life. Variants in the *PSEN1* and *PSEN2* and *APP* genes are known to cause early-onset AD in an autosomal dominant pattern with almost complete penetrance. The clinical validity for autosomal dominant early-onset AD will be nearly certain when a familial pathogenic variant has previously been identified. Outside the reproductive setting when used for prognosis or prediction, there is insufficient evidence to draw conclusions on the benefits of genetic testing for pathogenic variants. Testing a prospective parent, when performed in conjunction with genetic counseling, provides more accurate information to guide reproductive planning than family history alone. Therefore, clinical utility for the purposes of reproductive decision making has been demonstrated for these tests. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who are asymptomatic, at risk for developing early-onset, autosomal dominant AD, and have no known familial variant who receive genetic testing, the evidence includes studies on gene associations and test accuracy. Relevant outcomes are test accuracy and validity, change in disease status, change in reproductive decision making, health status measures, and quality of life. Variants in the *PSEN1*, *PSEN2*, and *APP* genes are known to cause early-onset AD in an autosomal dominant pattern with almost complete penetrance. The clinical validity for autosomal dominant early-onset AD will be reasonably certain when a variant found in the database of pathogenic *PSEN1*, *PSEN2*, and *APP* variants are identified. Outside the reproductive setting when used for prognosis or prediction, there is insufficient evidence to draw conclusions on the benefits of genetic testing for pathogenic variants. Testing a prospective parent, when performed in conjunction with genetic counseling, provides more accurate information to guide reproductive planning than family history alone. Therefore, clinical utility for the purposes of reproductive decision making has been demonstrated for these tests. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

### V. DEFINITIONS

[TOP](#)

**ALLELE** refers to one of two or more different genes containing specific inheritable characteristics that occupy corresponding positions (loci) on paired chromosomes.

**AUTOSOMAL DOMINANT INHERITANCE** refers to a pattern of inheritance in which the transmission of a dominant allele on an autosome causes a trait to be expressed.

**BIOCHEMICAL MARKER** any biochemical compound such as an antigen, antibody, abnormal enzyme, or hormone that is sufficiently altered in a disease to serve as an aid in diagnosing or in predicting susceptibility to disease.

**GENE** is the basic unit of heredity, made of DNA, the code for a specific protein.

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

**LIPOPROTEIN** refers to conjugated chemicals in the bloodstream consisting of simple proteins bound to fat. Cholesterol, phospholipids, and triglycerides are all fatty components of lipoproteins.

**NEUROFIBRIL** refers to any of the many tiny fibrils that extend in every direction of the nerve cell body. They extend into the axon and dendrites of the cell.

**NEURON** refers to a nerve cell, the structural and functional unit of the nervous system.

### 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 are based on the applicable health benefit plan language. Medical policies do not constitute a description of benefits. 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' medical policies are developed to assist in administering a member's benefits. These medical policies 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 for biochemical or genetic testing for the diagnosis or risk assessment of Alzheimer disease:**

Procedure Codes							
S3852	0206U	0207U	0289U	0358U	0393U	0412U	0445U
0459U	0479U	0503U	0551U	81099	83520	86849	

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

Medically Necessary and covered when used for PSEN/PSEN1, APP Genetic Testing when criteria met above.

Procedure Codes							
81401	81405	81406					

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
Z31.430	Encounter of female for testing for genetic disease carrier status for procreative management
Z31.440	Encounter of male for testing for genetic disease carrier status for procreative management
Z82.0	Family history of epilepsy and other diseases of the nervous system

### IX. REFERENCES

[TOP](#)

#### Cerebrospinal Fluid and Urinary Biomarkers for Alzheimer Disease

- Galasko D, Clark C, Chang L, et al. Assessment of CSF levels of tau protein in mildly demented patients with Alzheimer's disease. *Neurology*. Mar 1997; 48(3): 632-5. PMID 9065538
- 2021 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures. *Alzheimers Dement*. Mar 2021; 17(3): 327-406. PMID 33756057
- Alzheimer's Association. 2021 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures.
- Motter R, Vigo-Pelfrey C, Kholodenko D, et al. Reduction of beta-amyloid peptide42 in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients with Alzheimer's disease. *Ann Neurol*. Oct 1995; 38(4): 643-8. PMID 7574461
- Zhang J, Peng M, Jia J. Plasma amyloid- oligomers and soluble tumor necrosis factor receptors as potential biomarkers of AD. *Curr Alzheimer Res*. May 2014; 11(4): 325-31. PMID 24635842
- Maddalena A, Papassotiropoulos A, Muller-Tillmanns B, et al. Biochemical diagnosis of Alzheimer disease by measuring the cerebrospinal fluid ratio of phosphorylated tau protein to beta-amyloid peptide42. *Arch Neurol*. Sep 2003; 60(9): 1202-6. PMID 12975284
- Dumurgier J, Vercauysse O, Paquet C, et al. Intersite variability of CSF Alzheimer's disease biomarkers in clinical setting. *Alzheimers Dement*. Jul 2013; 9(4): 406-13. PMID 23141384
- Mattsson N, Andreasson U, Persson S, et al. The Alzheimer's Association external quality control program for cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers. *Alzheimers Dement*. Jul 2011; 7(4): 386-395.e6. PMID 21784349

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

9. Albert MS, DeKosky ST, Dickson D, et al. The diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease: recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement.* May 2011; 7(3): 270-9. PMID 21514249
10. Hyman BT, Phelps CH, Beach TG, et al. National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association guidelines for the neuropathologic assessment of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement.* Jan 2012; 8(1): 1-13. PMID 22265587
11. Rosa MI, Perucchi J, Medeiros LR, et al. Accuracy of cerebrospinal fluid A(1-42) for Alzheimer's disease diagnosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Alzheimers Dis.* 2014; 40(2): 443-54. PMID 24448789
12. Ferreira D, Perestelo-Perez L, Westman E, et al. Meta-Review of CSF Core Biomarkers in Alzheimer's Disease: The State-of-the-Art after the New Revised Diagnostic Criteria. *Front Aging Neurosci.* 2014; 6: 47. PMID 24715863
13. McKhann G, Drachman D, Folstein M, et al. Clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease: report of the NINCDS-ADRDA Work Group under the auspices of Department of Health and Human Services Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease. *Neurology.* Jul 1984; 34(7): 939-44. PMID 6610841
14. Bloudek LM, Spackman DE, Blankenburg M, et al. Review and meta-analysis of biomarkers and diagnostic imaging in Alzheimer's disease. *J Alzheimers Dis.* 2011; 26(4): 627-45. PMID 21694448
15. van Harten AC, Kester MI, Visser PJ, et al. Tau and p-tau as CSF biomarkers in dementia: a meta-analysis. *Clin Chem Lab Med.* Mar 2011; 49(3): 353-66. PMID 21342021
16. Formichi P, Battisti C, Radi E, et al. Cerebrospinal fluid tau, A beta, and phosphorylated tau protein for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. *J Cell Physiol.* Jul 2006; 208(1): 39-46. PMID 16447254
17. Fink HA, Linskens EJ, Silverman PC, et al. Accuracy of Biomarker Testing for Neuropathologically Defined Alzheimer Disease in Older Adults With Dementia. *Ann Intern Med.* May 19, 2020; 172(10): 669-677. PMID 32340038
18. Cure S, Abrams K, Belger M, et al. Systematic literature review and meta-analysis of diagnostic test accuracy in Alzheimer's disease and other dementia using autopsy as standard of truth. *J Alzheimers Dis.* 2014; 42(1): 169-82. PMID 24840572
19. Howell JC, Watts KD, Parker MW, et al. Race modifies the relationship between cognition and Alzheimer's disease cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers. *Alzheimers Res Ther.* Nov 02, 2017; 9(1): 88. PMID 29096697
20. Wang H, Stewart T, Toledo JB, et al. A Longitudinal Study of Total and Phosphorylated -Synuclein with Other Biomarkers in Cerebrospinal Fluid of Alzheimer's Disease and Mild Cognitive Impairment. *J Alzheimers Dis.* 2018; 61(4): 1541-1553. PMID 29376878
21. Ritchie C, Smailagic N, Noel-Storr AH, et al. Plasma and cerebrospinal fluid amyloid beta for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease dementia and other dementias in people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI). *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* Jun 10, 2014; (6): CD008782. PMID 24913723

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

22. Olsson B, Lautner R, Andreasson U, et al. CSF and blood biomarkers for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Neurol.* Jun 2016; 15(7): 673-684. PMID 27068280
23. Ritchie C, Smailagic N, Noel-Storr AH, et al. CSF tau and the CSF tau/ABeta ratio for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease dementia and other dementias in people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI). *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* Mar 22, 2017; 3: CD010803. PMID 28328043
24. Hansson O, Seibyl J, Stomrud E, et al. CSF biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease concord with amyloid- PET and predict clinical progression: A study of fully automated immunoassays in BioFINDER and ADNI cohorts. *Alzheimers Dement.* Nov 2018; 14(11): 1470-1481. PMID 29499171
25. Raina P, Santaguida P, Ismaila A, et al. Effectiveness of cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine for treating dementia: evidence review for a clinical practice guideline. *Ann Intern Med.* Mar 04, 2008; 148(5): 379-97. PMID 18316756
26. Kaduszkiewicz H, Zimmermann T, Beck-Bornholdt HP, et al. Cholinesterase inhibitors for patients with Alzheimer's disease: systematic review of randomised clinical trials. *BMJ.* Aug 06, 2005; 331(7512): 321-7. PMID 16081444
27. McShane R, Areosa Sastre A, Minakaran N. Memantine for dementia. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* Apr 19, 2006; (2): CD003154. PMID 16625572
28. Schneider LS, Mangialasche F, Andreasen N, et al. Clinical trials, and late-stage drug development for Alzheimer's disease: an appraisal from 1984 to 2014. *J Intern Med.* Mar 2014; 275(3): 251-83. PMID 24605808
29. Feldman HH, Ferris S, Winblad B, et al. Effect of rivastigmine on delay to diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease from mild cognitive impairment: the InDDEX study. *Lancet Neurol.* Jun 2007; 6(6): 501-12. PMID 17509485
30. Winblad B, Gauthier S, Scinto L, et al. Safety and efficacy of galantamine in subjects with mild cognitive impairment. *Neurology.* May 27, 2008; 70(22): 2024-35. PMID 18322263
31. Petersen RC, Thomas RG, Grundman M, et al. Vitamin E and donepezil for the treatment of mild cognitive impairment. *N Engl J Med.* Jun 09, 2005; 352(23): 2379-88. PMID 15829527
32. Zhang J, Zhang CH, Li RJ, et al. Accuracy of urinary AD7c-NTP for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Alzheimers Dis.* 2014; 40(1): 153-9. PMID 24346218
33. McKhann GM, Knopman DS, Chertkow H, et al. The diagnosis of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease: recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement.* May 2011; 7(3): 263-9. PMID 21514250
34. Vanderstichele H, Bibl M, Engelborghs S, et al. Standardization of preanalytical aspects of cerebrospinal fluid biomarker testing for Alzheimer's disease diagnosis: a consensus paper from the Alzheimer's Biomarkers Standardization Initiative. *Alzheimers Dement.* Jan 2012; 8(1): 65-73. PMID 22047631
35. Cordell CB, Borson S, Boustani M, et al. Alzheimer's Association recommendations for operationalizing the detection of cognitive impairment during the Medicare Annual

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

*Wellness Visit in a primary care setting. Alzheimers Dement. Mar 2013; 9(2): 141-50. PMID 23265826*

36. *Shaw LM, Arias J, Blennow K, et al. Appropriate use criteria for lumbar puncture and cerebrospinal fluid testing in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimers Dement. Nov 2018; 14(11): 1505-1521. PMID 30316776*
37. *Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Published June 20, 2018.*
38. *Cognitive impairment in older adults: screening. U.S. Preventative Task Force. Published February 25, 2020*
39. *Hansson O, Edelmayer RM, Boxer AL, et al. The Alzheimer's Association appropriate use recommendations for blood biomarkers in Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimers Dement. Jul 31 2022. PMID: 35908251*
40. *Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Medical Policy Reference Manual. 2.04.14, Cerebrospinal Fluid and Urinary Biomarkers for Alzheimer Disease. November 2022.*

### Genetic Testing for Alzheimer Disease

1. *Bird TD. Genetic aspects of Alzheimer disease. Genet Med. Apr 2008; 10(4): 231-9. PMID 18414205*
2. *Goldman JS, Hahn SE, Catania JW, et al. Genetic counseling, and testing for Alzheimer disease: joint practice guidelines of the American College of Medical Genetics and the National Society of Genetic Counselors. Genet Med. Jun 2011; 13(6): 597-605. PMID 21577118*
3. *Caselli RJ, Dueck AC, Locke DE, et al. Cerebrovascular risk factors and preclinical memory decline in healthy APOE 4 homozygotes. Neurology. Mar 22, 2011; 76(12): 1078-84. PMID 21325652*
4. *Jonsson T, Stefansson H, Steinberg S, et al. Variant of TREM2 associated with the risk of Alzheimer's disease. N Engl J Med. Jan 10, 2013; 368(2): 107-16. PMID 23150908*
5. *Guerreiro R, Wojtas A, Bras J, et al. TREM2 variants in Alzheimer's disease. N Engl J Med. Jan 10, 2013; 368(2): 117-27. PMID 23150934*
6. *McKhann GM, Knopman DS, Chertkow H, et al. The diagnosis of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease: recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimers Dement. May 2011; 7(3): 263-9. PMID 21514250*
7. *Hyman BT, Phelps CH, Beach TG, et al. National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association guidelines for the neuropathologic assessment of Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimers Dement. Jan 2012; 8(1): 1-13. PMID 22265587*
8. *Albert MS, DeKosky ST, Dickson D, et al. The diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease: recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimers Dement. May 2011; 7(3): 270-9. PMID 21514249*
9. *Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Technology Evaluation Center (TEC). Genetic Testing for Alzheimer's Disease: APOE Epsilon 4 Allele. TEC Assessments. 1999; Volume 14:Tab 7.*

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

10. National Center for Biotechnology Information. GTR: Genetic Testing Registry. n.d.; Accessed March 25, 2022.
11. Slooter AJ, Cruts M, Hofman A, et al. The impact of APOE on myocardial infarction, stroke, and dementia: the Rotterdam Study. *Neurology*. Apr 13, 2004; 62(7): 1196-8. PMID 15079025
12. Myers RH, Schaefer EJ, Wilson PW, et al. Apolipoprotein E epsilon4 association with dementia in a population-based study: The Framingham study. *Neurology*. Mar 1996; 46(3): 673-7. PMID 8618665
13. Bird TD. Alzheimer Disease Overview. In: Adam MP, Ardinger HH, Pagon RA, et al., eds. *GeneReviews*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington; 2015.
14. Naj AC, Jun G, Reitz C, et al. Effects of multiple genetic loci on age at onset in late-onset Alzheimer disease: a genome-wide association study. *JAMA Neurol*. Nov 2014; 71(11): 1394-404. PMID 25199842
15. Lambert JC, Ibrahim-Verbaas CA, Harold D, et al. Meta-analysis of 74,046 individuals identifies 11 new susceptibility loci for Alzheimer's disease. *Nat Genet*. Dec 2013; 45(12): 1452-8. PMID 24162737
16. Blue EE, Horimoto ARVR, Mukherjee S, et al. Local ancestry at APOE modifies Alzheimer's disease risk in Caribbean Hispanics. *Alzheimers Dement*. Dec 2019; 15(12): 1524-1532. PMID 31606368
17. Chao S, Roberts JS, Marteau TM, et al. Health behavior changes after genetic risk assessment for Alzheimer disease: The REVEAL Study. *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord*. Jan-Mar 2008; 22(1): 94-7. PMID 18317253
18. Green RC, Roberts JS, Cupples LA, et al. Disclosure of APOE genotype for risk of Alzheimer's disease. *N Engl J Med*. Jul 16, 2009; 361(3): 245-54. PMID 19605829
19. Christensen KD, Roberts JS, Whitehouse PJ, et al. Disclosing Pleiotropic Effects During Genetic Risk Assessment for Alzheimer Disease: A Randomized Trial. *Ann Intern Med*. Feb 02, 2016; 164(3): 155-63. PMID 26810768
20. Elias-Sonnenschein LS, Viechtbauer W, Ramakers IH, et al. Predictive value of APOE-4 allele for progression from MCI to AD-type dementia: a meta-analysis. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*. Oct 2011; 82(10): 1149-56. PMID 21493755
21. International Huntington Association and the World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Huntington's Chorea. Guidelines for the molecular genetics predictive test in Huntington's disease. *J Med Genet*. Jul 1994; 31(7): 555-9. PMID 7966192
22. Kowalska A, Wender M, Florczak J, et al. Molecular genetics of Alzheimer's disease: presenilin 1 gene analysis in a cohort of patients from the Poznan region. *J Appl Genet*. 2003; 44(2): 231-4. PMID 12817569
23. Janssen JC, Beck JA, Campbell TA, et al. Early onset familial Alzheimer's disease: Mutation frequency in 31 families. *Neurology*. Jan 28, 2003; 60(2): 235-9. PMID 12552037
24. Giau VV, Bagyinszky E, Youn YC, et al. APP, PSEN1, and PSEN2 Mutations in Asian Patients with Early-Onset Alzheimer Disease. *Int J Mol Sci*. Sep 25, 2019; 20(19). PMID 31557888
25. Stoychev KR, Stoimenova-Popova M, Chumpalova P, et al. A Clinical Case of Patient Carrying Rare Pathological PSEN1 Gene Mutation (L424V) Demonstrates the

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

- Phenotypic Heterogeneity of Early Onset Familial AD. Front Psychiatry. 2019; 10: 857. PMID 31920735*
26. Cochran JN, McKinley EC, Cochran M, et al. Genome sequencing for early-onset or atypical dementia: high diagnostic yield and frequent observation of multiple contributory alleles. *Cold Spring Harb Mol Case Stud. Dec 2019; 5(6). PMID 31836585*
  27. Rahman B, Meiser B, Sachdev P, et al. To know or not to know: an update of the literature on the psychological and behavioral impact of genetic testing for Alzheimer disease risk. *Genet Test Mol Biomarkers. Aug 2012; 16(8): 935-42. PMID 22731638*
  28. American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics. *Choosing Wisely. 2015*
  29. Goldman JS, Hahn SE, Catania JW, et al. *ADDENDUM: Genetic counseling and testing for Alzheimer disease: joint practice guidelines of the American College of Medical Genetics and the National Society of Genetic Counselors. Genet Med. Oct 2019; 21(10): 2404. PMID 31217590*
  30. Knopman DS, DeKosky ST, Cummings JL, et al. *Practice parameter: diagnosis of dementia (an evidence-based review). Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Neurology. May 08, 2001; 56(9): 1143-53. PMID 11342678*
  31. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). *Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers [NG97]. 2018*
  32. Goldman JS. *Predictive Genetic Counseling for Neurodegenerative Diseases: Past, Present, and Future. Cold Spring Harb Perspect Med. 2020;10(7):a036525. Published 2020 Jul 1. doi:10.1101/cshperspect.a036525 PMID: 31548223*
  33. *Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Medical Policy Reference Manual. 2.04.13, Genetic Testing for Alzheimer Disease. November 2022.*

### X. POLICY HISTORY

[TOP](#)

<b>MP 2.050</b>	<b>03/20/2019 Consensus Review.</b> References Updated.
	<b>03/16/2020 Consensus Review.</b> Policy statement unchanged. References updated. Description/Background section updated. Coding reviewed.
	<b>09/08/2020 Administrative Update.</b> Codes 0206U and 0207U added as investigational.
	<b>05/06/2021 Consensus Review.</b> References updated. Policy statement unchanged. Coding reviewed.
	<b>03/28/2022 Consensus Review.</b> No change to policy statement. Product Variations updated. Coding table format updated. References reviewed and added. Description/Background updated.
	<b>11/29/2022 Administrative Update.</b> Added procedure code 0358U effective 01/01/2023.
	<b>06/13/2023 Administrative Update.</b> Added procedure code 0393U Effective 07/01/2023.
	<b>10/01/2023 Administrative Update.</b> Added procedure code 0412U. Effective 10/01/2023

## MEDICAL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE (BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC)</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP 2.050</b>

	<b>12/11/2023 Consensus Review.</b> No change to policy statement, added code 0289U to INV. New references.
	<b>03/15/2024 Administrative Update.</b> New code 0445U, effective 04/01/2024
	<b>06/11/2024 Administrative Update.</b> New code 0459U, effective 07/01/2024.
	<b>09/18/2024 Administrative Update.</b> New codes 0479U, 0503U added effective 10/24/2024.
	<b>03/12/2025 Administrative Update.</b> New code 0551U added, effective 04/01/2025.

[Top](#)

*Health care benefit programs issued or administered by Capital Blue Cross and/or its subsidiaries, Capital Advantage Insurance Company<sup>®</sup>, Capital Advantage Assurance Company<sup>®</sup> and Keystone Health Plan<sup>®</sup> Central. Independent licensees of the Blue Cross BlueShield Association. Communications issued by Capital Blue Cross in its capacity as administrator of programs and provider relations for all companies.*