

[Revision log](#)

# CONCERT GENETICS GENETIC TESTING: GASTROENTEROLOGIC DISORDERS (NON-CANCEROUS)

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See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

## OVERVIEW

Genetic testing for gastroenterologic (non-cancerous) disorders may be used to confirm a diagnosis in a patient who has signs and/or symptoms of a specific gastroenterologic disorder. Confirming the diagnosis may alter aspects of management and may eliminate the need for further diagnostic workup. This document addresses genetic testing for common gastroenterologic (non-cancerous) conditions.

## POLICY REFERENCE TABLE

### Coding Implications

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. Please see the [Concert Genetics Platform](#) for a comprehensive list of registered tests.

| <a href="#">Criteria Sections</a>  | <b>Example Tests (Labs)</b>   | <b>Common CPT Codes</b>                  | <b>Common ICD Codes</b>                          | <a href="#">Ref</a> |
|--|---|--|--|---------------------|
| <b><a href="#">Known Familial Variant Analysis for Gastroenterologic Disorders</a></b> |   |  |  |                     |
| <a href="#">Known Familial Variant Analysis for Gastroenterologic Disorders</a>        | Targeted Mutation Analysis for a Known Familial Variant   | 81403                                    |  | 14                  |
| <b><a href="#">Celiac Disease</a></b>  |   |  |  |                     |
| <a href="#">HLA-DQ Variant Analysis</a>  | HLA DQ Association (Labcorp)  | 81370, 81375, 81376, 81377, 81382, 81383 | K90.0, R10.0-R10.13, R10.3-R10.829, R10.84-R10.9 | 4, 5, 6             |
|  | HLA DRB1,3,4,5,DQB1, Low Resolution (Quest Diagnostics)   |  |  |                     |
|  | HLA Typing for Celiac Disease (Quest Diagnostics)   |  |  |                     |
| <b><a href="#">Hereditary Hemochromatosis</a></b>                                      |   |  |  |                     |
| <a href="#">HFE C282Y and/or H63D Genotyping</a>                                       | Hereditary Hemochromatosis DNA Mutation Analysis (Quest Diagnostics)<br>HFE Targeted Variant - Single Test (GeneDx)       | 81256                                    | E83.110, E83.118, E83.119, R79.0, E83.19, R16.0  | 1, 7, 15            |
| <b><a href="#">Lactase Insufficiency</a></b>   |   |  |  |                     |
| <a href="#">MCM6 Targeted Variant Analysis</a>   | Lactose intolerance (polymorphisms- 13910C>T; c.1917+326C>T and 22018G>A; 1362+117G>A on <i>MCM6</i> gene) (CGC Genetics) | 81479                                    | E73.1  | 12, 13              |
| <b><a href="#">Hereditary Pancreatitis</a></b>   |   |  |  |                     |
| <a href="#">Hereditary Pancreatitis Multigene Panel</a>                                | Hereditary Pancreatitis Panel (GeneDx)  | 81222, 81223, 81404, 81405, 81479        | K85.0-K85.9, K86.1, Z83.79                       | 2, 3                |
| <b><a href="#">Inflammatory Bowel Disease</a></b>                                      |   |  |  |                     |
| <a href="#">Inflammatory Bowel Disease / Crohn's</a>                                   | Prometheus IBD sgi Diagnostic (Prometheus Laboratories)   | 81479, 82397, 83520, 86140, 88346, 88350 | K50-K52  | 8                   |

|   |   |                                   |                  |            |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| <a href="#">Disease Diagnostic Algorithmic Tests</a>                                      | IBD sgi Diagnostic (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia-Division of Genomic Diagnostics)                                | 83520, 82397, 86140, 88342, 81479 |                  |            |
| <a href="#">Inflammatory Bowel Disease / Crohn’s Disease Prognostic Algorithmic Tests</a> | PredictSURE IBD (KSL Diagnostics)   | 0203U                             | K50-K52          | 9          |
|   | Crohn’s Disease Prognostic Panel (ARUP Laboratories)  | 83516, 86671                      |                  |            |
|   | Prometheus Crohn’s Prognostic (Prometheus Laboratories)   | 81401, 83520, 88346, 88350        |                  |            |
| <a href="#">Hereditary Inflammatory Bowel Disease / Crohn’s Disease Panel Tests</a>       | Monogenic Inflammatory Bowel Disease Panel-Primary Genes (Invitae)  | 81479                             | K50-K52          | 10, 11     |
|   | Very Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel Genomic Panel (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia-Division of Genomic Diagnostics) |                                   |                  |            |
| <b><a href="#">Other Not Covered Gastroenterologic Disorders Tests</a></b>                |   |                                   |                  |            |
| <a href="#">Test Specific Not Covered Gastroenterologic Disorders Tests</a>               | ASH FibroSURE (LabCorp)   | 0002M                             | K22.7, K74, K75, | 16, 17, 18 |
|   | NASH FibroSURE (LabCorp)  | 0003M                             |                  |            |
|   | EsoGuard (Lucid Diagnostics)  | 0114U                             |                  |            |

## OTHER RELATED POLICIES

This policy document provides criteria for Genetic Testing for Gastroenterologic Conditions (Non-Cancerous). Please refer to:

- **Genetic Testing: Hereditary Cancer Susceptibility Syndromes** for criteria related to germline testing for hereditary cancer syndromes, including Lynch/HNPCC syndrome.
- **Genetic Testing: Prenatal and Preconception Carrier Screening** for criteria related to carrier screening in the prenatal, preimplantation, and preconception setting.
- **Genetic Testing: Prenatal Diagnosis (via amniocentesis, CVS, or PUBS) and Pregnancy Loss** for related to prenatal and pregnancy loss diagnostic genetic testing for tests intended

to diagnose genetic conditions following amniocentesis, chorionic villus sampling or pregnancy loss.

- ***Genetic Testing: Multisystem Inherited Disorders, Intellectual Disability, and Developmental Delay*** for criteria related to diagnostic genetic testing for conditions affecting multiple organ systems.
- ***Genetic Testing: Metabolic, Endocrine, and Mitochondrial Disorders*** for criteria related to genetic testing for MTHFR.
- ***Genetic Testing: General Approach to Genetic and Molecular Testing*** for criteria related to genetic testing for any non-cancerous GI disorders that is not specifically discussed in this or another non-general policy.

## CRITERIA

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that the specific genetic testing noted below is **medically necessary** when meeting the related criteria:

### KNOWN FAMILIAL VARIANT ANALYSIS FOR GASTROENTEROLOGIC DISORDERS

- I. Targeted variant analysis for a known familial variant (81403) for a gastroenterologic disorder is considered **medically necessary** when:
  - A. The member/enrollee has a [close relative](#) with a known pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant causing the condition.
- II. Targeted variant analysis for a known familial variant (81403) for a gastroenterologic disorder is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

[back to top](#)

## CELIAC DISEASE

### *HLA-DQ* Genotyping Analysis

- I. *HLA-DQ2* and *HLA-DQ8* variant analysis (81370, 81375, 81376, 81377, 81382, 81383) to rule out celiac disease (CD) is considered **medically necessary** when the member/enrollee meets one of the following:
  - A. The member/enrollee has equivocal small-bowel histological finding in seronegative patients, **OR**
  - B. The member/enrollee is on a gluten-free diet AND no testing for CD was done before gluten-free diet, **OR**
  - C. The member/enrollee has discrepant celiac-specific serology and histology, **OR**
  - D. The member/enrollee has suspicion of refractory CD where the original diagnosis of celiac remains in question.
- II. *HLA-DQ2* and *HLA-DQ8* variant analysis (81370, 81375, 81376, 81377, 81382, 81383) to rule out celiac disease is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

[back to top](#)

## HEREDITARY HEMOCHROMATOSIS

### *HFE* C282Y and H63D Genotyping

- I. *HFE* C282Y and H63D genotyping (81256) to establish a diagnosis of hereditary hemochromatosis is considered medically necessary when:
  - A. The member/enrollee has abnormal serum iron indices, especially elevated serum transferrin-iron saturation and/or elevated serum ferritin concentration, indicating iron overload, **OR**
  - B. The member/enrollee has a [first-degree relative](#) with a diagnosis of hereditary hemochromatosis, especially if the relative has Type I HH where the relative has two C282Y mutations (homozygous).
- II. *HFE* C282Y and H63D genotyping (81256) to screen for hereditary hemochromatosis in the general population is considered **investigational**.

[back to top](#)

## LACTASE INSUFFICIENCY

### **MCM6 Targeted Variant Analysis**

- I. *MCM6* variant analysis (81479) for the prediction of lactase insufficiency is considered **investigational**.

[back to top](#)

## HEREDITARY PANCREATITIS

### **Hereditary Pancreatitis Multigene Panel**

- I. Hereditary pancreatitis multigene panel analysis (81222, 81223, 81404, 81405, 81479) to establish a diagnosis of hereditary pancreatitis is considered **medically necessary** when:
  - A. The member/enrollee has personal history of pancreatitis, **AND**
  - B. The member/enrollee meets at least one of the following;
    1. Unexplained episode of acute pancreatitis in childhood (18 years or younger), **OR**
    2. Recurrent (two or more separate, documented) acute attacks of pancreatitis for which there is no explanation (anatomical anomalies, ampullary or main pancreatic strictures, trauma, viral infection, gallstones, alcohol, drugs, hyperlipidemia, etc.), **OR**
    3. Chronic pancreatitis of unknown cause, particularly with onset before age 35 years without a history of heavy alcohol use, **OR**
    4. At least one close relative with recurrent acute pancreatitis, chronic pancreatitis of unknown cause, or childhood pancreatitis of unknown cause, **AND**
  - C. The panel includes, at a minimum, the following genes: *PRSSI*, *SPINK*, *CFTR* and *CTRC*.
- II. Hereditary pancreatitis multigene panel analysis (81222, 81223, 81404, 81405, 81479) to establish a diagnosis of hereditary pancreatitis is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

[back to top](#)

## **INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE**

### **Inflammatory Bowel Disease / Crohn's Disease Diagnostic Algorithmic Tests**

- I. Inflammatory bowel disease diagnostic algorithmic tests (81479, 82397, 83520, 86140, 88342, 88346, 88350) are considered **investigational**.

[back to top](#)

### **Inflammatory Bowel Disease / Crohn's Disease Prognostic Algorithmic Tests**

- I. Inflammatory bowel disease prognostic algorithmic tests (0203U, 81401, 83516, 83520, 86671, 88346, 88350) are considered **investigational**.

[back to top](#)

### **Hereditary Inflammatory Bowel Disease / Crohn's Disease Panel Tests**

- I. Genetic testing for inflammatory bowel disease (81479), including Crohn's disease, via a multigene panel is considered **medically necessary** when:
  - A. The member/enrollee had very early onset of [IBD symptoms](#) before age 2 years, **OR**
  - B. The member/enrollee had [IBD symptoms](#) before age 18 years, **AND**
    1. At least one of the following:
      - a) Affected family member with a suspected [monogenic disorder](#), who has not had genetic testing, **OR**
      - b) Multiple family members with early-onset IBD, **OR**
      - c) Consanguinity, **OR**
      - d) Recurrent infections, **OR**
      - e) Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), **OR**

- f) Autoimmune features, **OR**
  - g) Autoimmune and dermatological features, **OR**
  - h) Malignancy, **OR**
  - i) Multiple intestinal atresias.
- II. Genetic testing for inflammatory bowel disease (81479), including Crohn's disease, via a multigene panel is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

[back to top](#)

## OTHER NOT COVERED GASTROENTEROLOGIC DISORDERS TESTS

- I. The use of these specific gastroenterologic disorders tests are considered **investigational**:
- A. ASH FibroSURE (0002M)
  - B. NASH FibroSURE (0003M)
  - C. EsoGuard (0114U)

[back to top](#)

## NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

1. Close relatives include first, second, and third degree blood relatives on the same side of the family:
  - a. **First-degree relatives** are parents, siblings, and children
  - b. **Second-degree relatives** are grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and half siblings
  - c. **Third-degree relatives** are great grandparents, great aunts, great uncles, great grandchildren, and first cousins
2. **Typical inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) symptoms** include diarrhea, abdominal pain, infections, and bleeding.
3. **Aggressive, refractory or unusual IBD presentation** includes:



- a. Recurrent severe infections or atypical infections consistent with diagnostic criteria of a primary immunodeficiency,
  - b. Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis
  - c. Autoimmune features in particular features of
    - i. Immunodysregulation polyendocrinopathy enteropathy X-linked syndrome
    - ii. Malignancies or multiple intestinal atresias
  - d. Unusual disease evolution
  - e. Non-response to multiple IBD medications
4. **Monogenic disorders** are health conditions that are caused by mutations in a single gene.

[back to top](#)

## BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

### Known Familial Variant Analysis for Gastroenterologic Disorders

#### *Genetic Support Foundation*

The Genetic Support Foundation's Genetics 101 information on genetic testing says the following about testing for familial pathogenic variants:

Genetic testing for someone who may be at risk for an inherited disease is always easier if we know the specific genetic cause. Oftentimes, the best way to find the genetic cause is to start by testing someone in the family who is known or strongly suspected to have the disease. If their testing is positive, then we can say that we have found the familial pathogenic (harmful) variant. We can use this as a marker to test other members of the family to see who is also at risk.

### Celiac Disease - *HLA-DQ* Variant Analysis

#### *American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)*

The guidelines from the American College of Gastroenterology (2013) addressing the diagnosis and management of celiac disease (CD) stated the following on human leukocyte antigen (HLA) gene testing:

1. HLA-DQ2/DQ8 testing should not be used routinely in the initial diagnosis of CD [celiac disease] (Strong recommendation, moderate level of evidence).

2. HLA-DQ2/DQ8 genotyping testing should be used to effectively rule out the disease in selected clinical situations (Strong recommendation, moderate level of evidence).
3. Examples of such clinical situations include but are not limited to:
  - a. Equivocal small-bowel histological finding (Marsh I-II) in seronegative patients
  - b. Evaluation of patients on a gluten-free diet in whom no testing for CD was done before gluten-free diet
  - c. Patients with discrepant celiac-specific serology and histology
  - d. Patients with suspicion of refractory CD where the original diagnosis of celiac remains in question. (p. 9)

The 2013 guidelines from the American College of Gastroenterology do not recommend routine testing of family members, because of the high likelihood (>80%) of these individuals encoding HLA susceptibility. (p. 3)

#### *American Gastroenterological Association Institute*

The American Gastroenterological Association Institute (2006) issued a position statement on the diagnosis and management of CD. Regarding serologic testing, the Institute concluded that, in the primary care setting, the transglutaminase immunoglobulin (Ig) A antibody test is the most efficient single serologic test for diagnosing CD. The guidelines indicated that the antiendomysial antibodies IgA test is more time-consuming and operator dependent than the tissue transglutaminase (tTG). If IgA deficiency is strongly suspected, testing with IgG anti endomysial antibody (EMA) and/or tTG IgG antibody test is recommended. If serologic test results are negative and CD is still strongly suspected, providers can test for the presence of the disease-associated HLA alleles and, if present, perform a small intestinal mucosal biopsy. Alternatively, if signs and symptoms suggest that small intestinal biopsy is appropriate, patients can proceed to biopsy without testing for HLA alleles. (p. 4)

#### *U.S. Preventive Services Task Force*

The US Preventive Service Task Form (2017) released guidelines on screening adults and children for CD. These guidelines reviewed the use of tTG IgA testing followed by an intestinal biopsy to screen asymptomatic patients. Genotype testing was not discussed. The overall conclusion of this review was that the current balance of evidence was insufficient to assess benefits and harms resulting from screening for CD. (p. 1252)

## **HEREDITARY HEMOCHROMATOSIS**

## ***HFE C282Y and H63D Genotyping***

### *European Molecular Quality Network (EMQN)*

Molecular genetic testing for hereditary hemochromatosis (HH) is recognized as a reference test to confirm the diagnosis of suspected HH or to predict its risk. The vast majority (typically >90%) of patients with clinically characterized HH are homozygous for the p.C282Y variant in the HFE gene, referred to as HFE-related HH. (p. 479)

The article includes guidelines, which state the following recommendations for *HFE* testing strategies:

- Laboratories providing testing for HFE-associated HH should test for p.C282Y (1A)
- According to local practice, p.H63D can be considered an optional complementary test that can be offered sequentially or simultaneously to p.C282Y testing (2C)
- Testing for p.S65C should not be offered

### *American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)*

In 2019, practice guidelines from the ACG made the following statement on genetic testing for hereditary hemochromatosis (HH):

- We recommend that family members, particularly first-degree relatives, of patients diagnosed with HH should be screened for HH (strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence).
- Selective screening of first-degree relatives of patients affected with type 1 HH is suggested. Studies of patients with HH and their families have demonstrated that most homozygous relatives of probands demonstrate biochemical and clinical expression of the disease, not only due to the presence of the genetic mutation but also shared environmental factors that may increase the penetrance of the disease. (p. 1206)
- We recommend that individuals with the H63D or S65C mutation in the absence of C282Y mutation should be counseled that they are not at increased risk of iron overload (conditional recommendation, very low quality of evidence). (p. 1208)

The ACG goes on to explain that there is evidence of cost-effectiveness of screening spouses of HH patients, as well as cost-effectiveness of genetic testing for children of HH patients when compared to serum screening (p. 1206).

Additionally, the ACG published a suggested algorithm for diagnosis and treatment in their 2019 practice guidelines. This algorithm includes evaluating a patient's serum transferrin iron saturation (TS) and serum ferritin (SF), and indicates HFE genotyping if TS is 45% or greater, and/or SF is elevated (p. 1212).

### *GeneReviews-HFE Hemochromatosis*

GeneReviews is an expert-authored review of current literature on a genetic disease, and goes through a rigorous editing and peer review process before being published online. They point out the following regarding transferrin-iron saturation (TS) levels in hereditary hemochromatosis (in the Clinical Characteristics section, Clinical Description-Heterozygotes):

Although a threshold TS of 45% may be more sensitive than higher values for detecting HFE hemochromatosis, TS of 45% may also identify heterozygotes who are not at risk of developing other clinical abnormalities.

### **Lactase Insufficiency - *MCM6* Targeted Variant Analysis**

#### *Obermayer-Pietsch et al 2004*

LCT(T/C 13910) polymorphisms are associated with lactose intolerance and reduced bone density, and they predispose to bone fractures in postmenopausal women. Genetic testing for lactose intolerance may complement common indirect methods for the detection of individuals at risk for both lactose malabsorption and osteoporosis. (p. 42)

#### *Mattar et al 2012*

Genetic testing has been a new tool for the diagnosis of hypolactasia/lactase persistence but may not detect all the single nucleotide polymorphisms associated with this disorder. (p. 119)

### **Hereditary Pancreatitis Multigene Panel**

#### *American College of Gastroenterology*

In 2013, the American College of Gastroenterology issued guidelines on management of acute pancreatitis and included the following statement: “Genetic testing may be considered in young patients (younger than 30 years old) if no cause [of acute pancreatitis] is evident, and a family history of pancreatic disease is present (conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence).” (p. 1402)

In 2020, the American College of Gastroenterology Clinical Guideline: Chronic pancreatitis (CP) recommended genetic testing in patients with clinical evidence of a pancreatitis-associated disorder or possible CP in which the etiology is unclear, especially in younger patients. At minimum, patients with idiopathic CP should be evaluated for *PRSSI*, *SPINK1*, *CFTR*, and *CTRC* gene mutation analysis, although more extended panels with over a dozen susceptibility and modifier genes, hyper-triglyceridemia genes, and pharmacogenetics are available. (p. 325 and 330)

*American Pancreatic Association*

In 2014, the American Pancreatic Association published Practice Guidelines in Chronic Pancreatitis: Evidence-Based Report on Diagnostic Guidelines. A classification guideline for the etiology of chronic pancreatitis (CP) includes genetic mutations in *PRSS1*, *CFTR*, *SPINK1*, and others. (p. 7)

**Inflammatory Bowel Disease / Crohn's Disease Diagnostic Algorithmic Tests***Concert Genetics - Evidence Review for Coverage Determination - Inflammatory Bowel Disease/Crohn's Diagnostic Algorithmic Tests*

There are several professional society guidelines that address appropriate diagnostic tools for IBD. These include the 2018 statement by the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) on management of adult Crohn's Disease, the 2019 guideline on Ulcerative Colitis in Adults by ACG, and the 2017 guideline by the European Crohn's and Colitis Organization (ECCO) on Diagnosis and Management of Ulcerative Colitis. The ACG Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis guidelines indicated that routine serologic testing for either disease is not recommended, with the 2019 guideline stating "we recommend against serologic antibody testing to establish or rule out a diagnosis of UC (strong recommendation, very low quality of evidence)." (p. 486 [2018 guideline], p. 385 [2019 guideline]) The ECCO evidence review and consensus concluded that the serological biomarker use of pANCA and ASCA for diagnosis and therapeutic decisions in ulcerative colitis is not clinically justified. (p. 653)

This body of literature includes few peer reviewed published studies on the clinical validity and clinical utility of Prometheus IBD sgi Diagnostic. The peer-reviewed 2013 validation study by Plevy et al used a 17 marker Prometheus panel and determined that this panel increased the discrimination between IBD and non-IBD, as well as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis compared to using serological markers alone. The current Prometheus offering, according to the laboratory website, has an additional serologic marker, to make 18 components. However, the website lists only seven serologic markers on the current panel. Given the different number of components, it is unclear if the validation study of 2013 is applicable to the currently offered test. The Plevy validation study is not prospective, nor does it document the patient outcomes when Prometheus IBD sgi Diagnostic is used to base diagnostic decisions. This is appropriate for a validation study, however additional peer-reviewed studies showing prospective clinical utility outcomes have not been published. While studies on individual biomarkers are suggestive, the panel in question includes multiple markers with a proprietary algorithm, so evidence of the clinical usefulness must be from this same panel and algorithm. Further, Shirts et al. demonstrate that the predictive value of the Prometheus IBD sgi Diagnostic test primarily comes from the three widely available markers, pANCA+, ASCA-IgA+, and IG+.

At the present time, IBD Crohn's Diagnostic Algorithmic tests such as Prometheus IBD sgi Diagnostic have INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE in peer-reviewed publications to effectively result in improved health outcomes compared to the current standard of care.

### **Inflammatory Bowel Disease/Crohn's Disease Prognostic Algorithmic Tests**

#### *Concert Genetics Evidence Review for Coverage Determination - Inflammatory Bowel Disease/Crohn's Disease Prognostic Algorithmic Tests*

The results of the 2021 ECCO Scientific Workshop indicate that the PredictSURE IBD test is the only one that has sufficient evidence of clinical validity. Additionally, they point out that PredictSURE IBD currently has a clinical trial underway which may provide needed clinical utility evidence in the future. This group also has an ongoing clinical trial to further validate the biomarkers. The 2018 statement by the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) on management of adult Crohn's Disease states that certain genetic markers are associated with different phenotypic expressions in Crohn's disease but testing remains a research tool at this time." (p. 486) No other serological markers or prognostic algorithmic tests are mentioned in these guidelines.

Inflammatory bowel diseases are on a heterogenous spectrum that includes both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Two systematic reviews for serology biomarkers have been published recently, and indicate there is some promise in using these markers to distinguish ulcerative colitis from Crohn's disease, but studies show a marked heterogeneity in serological responses among populations. Another use of serological biomarkers is to predict future complications for individual patients, but these studies are similarly hampered by varied responses. It does appear that overall, multiple markers are more useful than single markers, but more well-designed studies are needed to support which markers are the most useful.

At the present time, Crohn's Prognostic Algorithmic tests, such as PredictSURE IBD, have INSUFFICIENT evidence in peer-reviewed publications to effectively result in improved health outcomes compared to the current standard of care. At this time, the current evidence does not support health plan coverage due to a lack of evidence that prognostic serological IBD testing results in better outcomes than the current treatments.

### **Hereditary Inflammatory Bowel Disease / Crohn's Disease Panel Tests**

#### *UpToDate (Higuchi LM and Bousvaros A, 2021)*

Clinical features that raise suspicion for monogenic IBD include:

- Young age of onset (e.g., younger than six years, particularly younger than age two years)
- Family history of IBD and/or immunodeficiency in multiple family members, particularly with male predominance, or consanguinity
- Recurrent infections or unexplained fever
- Associated features of autoimmunity (e.g., arthritis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, anemia, or endocrine dysfunction)
- Very severe IBD and/or resistance to conventional therapies for IBD
- Symptoms or signs suggesting hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (hepatomegaly, fever, cytopenias, high ferritin)
- Lesions of the skin, nails, or hair
- Current or past history of cancer in the patient

Infants or young children presenting with these features warrant careful evaluation for monogenic IBD and consultation with an immunologist. (p. 7-8)

*European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN)*

The purpose of this statement was to demonstrate that genomic technologies should be considered an integral part of patient care to investigate patients at risk for monogenic forms of IBD. (p. 2)

The majority of patients with monogenic IBD present in the first 6 years of life (i.e. very early-onset IBD). Consanguinity, a family history of autoimmune disease, and family history of suspected or confirmed monogenic disorders are associated with monogenic IBD. Several reviews have provided an overview of extraintestinal features of the diverse immunodeficiency and epithelial cell disorders that can present with intestinal inflammation. Those features include recurrent infections, hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), autoimmune and dermatological features as well as development of malignancy. (p. 6-7)

According to the diagnostic algorithm for monogenic inflammatory bowel disease proposed by the position statement, patients with suspected monogenic IBD (either before age 2 years of IBD-onset or over age 2 years of IBD-onset with additional red flag features), a multidisciplinary team assessment will help to establish a diagnostic and therapeutic care plan. (p. 26)

Below is a summary of clinical features that should prompt considering a monogenic inflammatory bowel disease workup (Red flag signs) (p. 24):

- Age of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) presentation
  - IBD symptom onset before age 2 years
  - IBD onset before age 6 years, in particular when other red flag signs are present
- Family history
  - Affected family member with a suspected monogenic disorder

- Consanguinity
- Multiple family members with early-onset IBD
- Comorbidity and extraintestinal manifestations are particularly relevant for monogenic IBD diagnostic considerations when rare or atypical for patient age irrespective of organ manifestation.
  - Recurrent severe infections or atypical infections consistent with diagnostic criteria of a primary immunodeficiency
  - Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis
  - Autoimmune features in particular features of Immunodysregulation polyendocrinopathy enteropathy X-linked syndrome
  - Malignancies
  - Multiple intestinal atresias

### **Other Not Covered Gastroenterologic Disorders Tests**

#### *American Association for the Study of Liver Disease*

In a practice guideline (2018) for management of hepatitis B, it is stated that noninvasive methods may be used in lieu of liver biopsies to assess for severity of fibrosis and/or inflammation. Liver stiffness measurements (elastography) are more accurate than serum fibrosis panels in predicting significant or advanced fibrosis. Noninvasive methods overestimate fibrosis if high levels of necroinflammation, as reflected by elevated ALT, are present. Elastography is the preferred method for assessment of liver fibrosis. (p. 14)

#### *World Health Organization*

In a guideline for recommendations for persons with chronic hepatitis B infection, WHO states that APRI (aspartate aminotransferase [AST]-to-platelet ratio index) is recommended as the preferred non-invasive test to assess for the presence of cirrhosis in resource-limited settings and transient elastography. FibroTest may be the preferred non-invasive test in settings where they are available and cost is not a major constraint. (Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence) (p. 25).

#### *National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)*

The NCCN guideline for Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers (2.2023) recommends diagnostic endoscopy with biopsy as the preferred method for determining the presence and location of esophageal neoplasia. Cytologic brushings or washings are rarely adequate in the initial diagnosis (p. ESOPH-A, 1 of 5)

[back to top](#)



| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals   | Revision Date | Approval Date |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Policy developed.   | 03/23         | 03/23         |
| <p>Semi-annual review. Updated title to reflect V1.2024 version. Overview, coding, reference-table, background and references updated. Throughout policy: replaced “coverage criteria” with “criteria. For Policy Reference Table: changed “HFE Sequencing and/or...” to “HFE and/or...”; replaced “81479” with “81256”; under “Inflammatory Bowel Disease..” removed “86140” and “88342” and added “86140” and “88342”. For Other Related Policies: added “Molecular”. For Criteria; Known Familial Variant Analysis for Gastroenterologic Disorders Panel: under I. replaced “mutation” with “variant”; under I.A. added “close relative”; under II. replaced “mutation” with “variant”; For Celiac Disease: added “(CD)”; removed “in whom”; for Hereditary Hemochromatosis: changed title of panel from “HFE Sequencing and/or Deletion...” to “HFE C282Y and H63D Genotyping”; under I. added “HFE C282Y...” under I.B. added “first-degree relative”; under II. removed “sequencing...” and added “C282Y...”; removed “III. HFE sequencing...”; For Hereditary Pancreatitis: under I.B.1. removed “The member/enrollee has an unexplained” and replaced with “Unexplained”; under I.B.2. removed “The member/enrollee has recurrent” and replaced with “Recurrent”; under I.B.4. removed “A history of at” and replaced with “At”; For Hereditary Inflammatory Bowel Disease/Crohn’s Disease Panel Tests: under I.A. replaced “has” with “had” and removed “typical” and added “IBD symptoms”; under I.B. removed “is under the age of 18...” and added “had IBD symptoms before age 18 years...”; added I.B.1. “At least one of the following...”; added I.B.1.a. “Affected family...”; added I.B.1.b. “Multiple family members...”; added I.B.1.c. “Consanguinity...”; added I.B.1.d. “Recurrent infections...”; added I.B.1.e. “Hemophagocytic...”; added I.B.1.f. “Autoimmune features...”; added I.B.1.g. “Autoimmune and dermatological...”; added I.B.1.h. “Malignancy...”; added I.B.1.i. “Multiple intestinal atresias.”; changed title of “Test-Specific Not Covered...” panel to “Other Not Covered...”. For Notes and Definitions: added “4. Monogenic disorders...”. For Background and Rationale: changed “inheritance patterns” to “genetic testing”; under Hereditary Hemochromatosis: added “HFE C282Y and H63D Genotyping...”; under Inflammatory Bowel Disease/Crohn’s Disease Panel Tests: removed “UpToDate (Snapper SB...)”; and added “European Society of Paediatric...”; and removed “British Society of Gastroenterology...”; added “Other Not Covered Gastroenterologic Disorders Tests...”.</p> | 10/23         | 10/23         |

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[back to top](#)

### **Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

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**Note: For Medicaid members/enrollees**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

**Note: For Medicare members/enrollees**, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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