Policy Statement

Note: Cytochrome P450 is a family of proteins (enzymes) including several genes (CYPs). The letters that follow CYP indicate a subfamily of gene.

Cytochrome P450 2D6 (CYP2D6) genotyping to determine drug metabolizer status may be considered medically necessary for patients with either of the following conditions:
- Gaucher disease being considered for treatment with eliglustat
- Huntington disease being considered for treatment with tetrabenazine in a dosage greater than 50 mg per day

Cytochrome P450 (CYP450) genotyping for the purpose of aiding in the choice of clopidogrel (Plavix®) versus alternative antiplatelet agents, or in decisions on the optimal dosing for clopidogrel (Plavix®), is considered investigational.

CYP450 genotyping for the purpose of aiding in the choice of drug or dose to increase efficacy and/or avoid toxicity for the following drugs is considered investigational for all of the following (see Policy Guidelines):
- Selection or dosage of codeine
- Dosing of efavirenz and other antiretroviral therapies for HIV infection
- Dosing of immunosuppressants for organ transplantation
- Selection or dosing of β-blockers (e.g., metoprolol)
- Dosing and management of antitubercular medications

The use of genetic testing panels that include multiple CYP450 variants is considered investigational.

Policy Guidelines

This policy does not address the use of genetic or panel testing that include tests for genes other than CYP450-related genes (e.g., the Genecept Assay). Testing related to mental health drugs (see below) and the broader panel testing, which are discussed in Blue Shield of California Medical Policy; Genetic Testing for Mental Health Conditions:
- Selection or dosing of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)
- Selection or dosing of selective noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors and serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)
- Selection or dosing of tricyclic antidepressants
- Selection or dosing of antipsychotic drugs

Genetics Nomenclature Update

The Human Genome Variation Society (HGVS) 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). HGVS nomenclature is recommended by the Human Variome Project, the HUman Genome Organization (HUGO), and by the Human Genome Variation Society itself.

The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) and the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mutation</td>
<td>Disease-associated variant</td>
<td>Disease-associated change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variant</td>
<td>Change in the DNA sequence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familial variant</td>
<td>Disease-associated variant</td>
<td>Disease-associated variant identified in a proband for use in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>subsequent targeted genetic testing in first-degree relatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Coding
The following are specific CPT coding for this testing:

- **81225**: CYP2C19 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily C, polypeptide 19) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variants (e.g., *2, *3, *4, *8, *17)
- **81227**: CYP2C9 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily C, polypeptide 9) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variants (e.g., *2, *3, *5, *6)

Effective January 1, 2018, the following CPT codes are specific to CYP450 genotyping. CYP3A4 and CYP3A5 were previously reported under code 81401:

- **81230**: CYP3A4 (cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 4) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variant(s) (e.g., *2, *22)
- **81231**: CYP3A5 (cytochrome P450, family 3, subfamily A member 5) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variants (e.g., *2, *3, *4, *5, *6, *7)

There following are tier 2 CPT codes that include cytochrome P450 testing:

- **81402**: Molecular pathology procedure, Level 3 (e.g., >10 SNPs, 2-10 methylated variants, or 2-10 somatic variants [typically using non-sequencing target variant analysis], immunoglobulin and T-cell receptor gene rearrangements, duplication/deletion variants of 1 exon, loss of heterozygosity [LOH], uniparental disomy [UPD]) includes –
  - CYP21A2 (cytochrome P450, family 21, subfamily A, polypeptide 2) (e.g., congenital adrenal hyperplasia, 21-hydroxylase deficiency), common variants (e.g., IVS2-13G, P30L, I172N, exon 6 mutation cluster [I235N, V236E, M238K], V281L, L307FfsX6, Q318X, R356W, P453S, G110VfsX21, 30- kb deletion variant)
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- **81404**: Molecular pathology procedure, Level 5 (e.g., analysis of 2-5 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 6-10 exons, or characterization of a dynamic mutation disorder/triplet repeat by Southern blot analysis) includes:
  - CYP1B1 (cytochrome P450, family 1, subfamily B, polypeptide 1) (e.g., primary congenital glaucoma), full gene sequence

- **81405**: Molecular pathology procedure, Level 6 (e.g., analysis of 6-10 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 11-25 exons, regionally targeted cytogenomic array analysis) includes:
  - CYP11B1 (cytochrome P450, family 11, subfamily B, polypeptide 1) (e.g., congenital adrenal hyperplasia), full gene sequence
  - CYP17A1 (cytochrome P450, family 17, subfamily A, polypeptide 1) (e.g., congenital adrenal hyperplasia), full gene sequence
  - CYP21A2 (cytochrome P450, family 21, subfamily A, polypeptide 2) (e.g., steroid 21-hydroxylase isomorph, congenital adrenal hyperplasia), full gene sequence

**Effective October 1, 2018**, the following PLA code has been **deleted**:
- **0028U**: CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, copy number variants, common variants with reflex to targeted sequence analysis (CYP2D6 Genotype Cascade)

PLA codes **effective January 1, 2018** include:
- **0029U**: Drug metabolism (adverse drug reactions and drug response), targeted sequence analysis (i.e., CYP1A2, CYP2C19, CYP2C9, CYP2D6, CYP3A4, CYP3A5, CYP4F2, SLC01B1, VKORC1 and rs12777823) (Focused Pharmacogenomics Panel)
- **0031U**: CYP1A2 (cytochrome P450 family 1, subfamily A, member 2) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, common variants (i.e., *1F, *1K, *6, *7) (Cytochrome P450 1A2 Genotype)

PLA codes **effective October 1, 2018** include:
- **0071U**: CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, full gene sequence (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- **0072U**: CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (i.e., CYP2D6-2D7 hybrid gene)
- **0073U**: CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (i.e., CYP2D7-2D6 hybrid gene) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- **0074U**: CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (i.e., non-duplicated gene when duplication/multiplication is trans)
- **0075U**: CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (i.e., 5’ gene duplication/multiplication)
- **0076U**: CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (i.e., 3’ gene duplication/multiplication)

**Description**

The cytochrome P450 (CYP450) family is involved in the metabolism of many currently administered drugs, and genetic variants in cytochrome P450 are associated with altered...
metabolism of many drugs. Testing for cytochrome P450 variants may assist in selecting and dosing drugs affected by these genetic variants.

### Related Policies

- N/A

### Benefit Application

Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between these guidelines and the contract language, the contract language will control. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

Some state or federal mandates (e.g., Federal Employee Program [FEP]) prohibits plans from denying Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved technologies as investigational. In these instances, plans may have to consider the coverage eligibility of FDA-approved technologies on the basis of medical necessity alone.

### 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. Diagnostic genotyping tests for certain CYP450 enzymes 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 (FDA) has chosen not to require any regulatory review of this test.

Several testing kits for CYP450 genotyping cleared for marketing by the FDA (FDA product code: NTI) are summarized in Table 1.

### Table 1. Testing Kits for CYP450 Genotyping Cleared for Marketing by FDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device Name</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Approval Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xTAG Cyp2d6 Kit V3</td>
<td>Luminex Molecular Diagnostics</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xTAG Cyp2c 19 Kit V3</td>
<td>Luminex Molecular Diagnostics</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spartan Rx Cyp2c 19 Test System</td>
<td>Spartan Bioscience</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xTAG Cyp2d6 Kit V3 (Including Tdas Cyp2d)</td>
<td>Luminex Molecular Diagnostics</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verigene Cyp2c 19 Nucleic Acid Test (2c19)</td>
<td>Nanosphere</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infiniti Cyp2c 19 Assay</td>
<td>Automolomics</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xTAG Cyp2d6 Kit V3, Model l030c0300 (96)</td>
<td>Luminex Molecular Diagnostics</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invader Ugt1a1 Molecular Assay</td>
<td>Third Wave Technologies</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roche AmpliChip Cyp450 Test</td>
<td>Roche Molecular Systems</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FDA: Food and Drug Administration.

Several manufacturers market diagnostic genotyping panel tests for CYP450 genes, such as the YouScript Panel (Genelex Corp.), which includes CYP2D6, CYP2C19, CYP2C9, VKORC1, CYP3A4, and CYP3A5. Other panel tests include both CYP450 and other non-CYP450 genes involved in drug metabolism, such as the GeneSight Psychotropic panel (Assurex Health) and Persona Gene Genetic Panels (AIBioTech). These tests are beyond the scope of this evidence review.

### FDA Labeling on CYP450 Genotyping

The FDA has included pharmacogenomics information in the physician prescribing information (drug labels) of multiple drugs. In most cases, this information is general and lacks specific directives for clinical decision making. In the following examples, the FDA has given clear and
specific directives on either use of a specific dose (e.g., eliglustat, tetrabenazine) or when a drug may not be used at all (e.g., codeine) and therefore evidence in such cases is not reviewed in the Rationale section.

**Eliglustat**
The FDA has approved eliglustat for treatment of adults with Gaucher disease type 1 who are CYP2D6 EMs, intermediate metabolizers, or PMs as detected by an FDA-cleared test. Further, the label acknowledges the limitation of use among UMs because they may not achieve adequate concentrations and a specific dosage was not recommended for patients with indeterminate CYP2D6 metabolizer's status. Further, the label states that the dosing strategy should be 84 mg orally, twice daily for CYP2D6 EMs or intermediate metabolizers and 84 mg orally, once daily for CYP2D6 PMs. The FDA has included a black box to warn about the reduced effectiveness in PMs and to advise healthcare professionals to consider alternative dosing or to use of other medications in patients identified as potential PMs.1

**Tetrabenazine**
The FDA has approved tetrabenazine for the treatment of chorea associated with Huntington disease. According to the label, patients requiring doses above 50 mg/d should be genotyped for the drug-metabolizing enzyme CYP2D6 to determine if the patient is a PM or EM. For patients categorized as PMs using an FDA-approved test, the maximum daily dose should not exceed 50 mg, with a maximum single dose of 25 mg.2

**Codeine**
The FDA does not recommend genotyping before prescribing codeine. The FDA has contraindicated codeine for treating pain or cough in children under 12 years of age and codeine is not recommended for use in adolescents ages 12 to 18 who are obese or have conditions such as obstructive sleep apnea or severe lung disease. There is an additional warning to mothers not to breastfeed when taking codeine.3

### Rationale

**Background**

**Drug Efficacy and Toxicity**
Drug efficacy and toxicity vary substantially across individuals. Because drugs and doses are typically adjusted, if needed, by trial-and-error, clinical consequences may include a prolonged time to optimal therapy. In some cases, serious adverse events may result.

Multiple factors may influence the variability of drug effects, including age, liver function, concomitant diseases, nutrition, smoking, and drug-drug interactions. Inherited (germline) DNA sequence variation in genes coding for drug-metabolizing enzymes, drug receptors, drug transporters, and molecules involved in signal transduction pathways also may have major effects on the activity of those molecules and thus on the efficacy or toxicity of a drug.

Pharmacogenomics studies how an individual's genetic inheritance affects the body's response to drugs. It may be possible to predict therapeutic failures or severe adverse drug reactions in individual patients by testing for important DNA variants (genotyping) in genes related to the metabolic pathway (pharmacokinetics) or signal transduction pathway (pharmacodynamics) of the drug. Potentially, test results could be used to optimize drug choice and/or dose for more effective therapy, avoid serious adverse events, and decrease medical costs.

**Cytochrome P450 System**
The cytochrome P450 (CYP450) family is a major subset of all drug-metabolizing enzymes; several CYP450 enzymes are involved in the metabolism of a significant proportion of currently administered drugs. CYP2D6 metabolizes approximately 25% of all clinically used medications (e.g., dextromethorphan, β-blockers, antiarrhythmics, antidepressants, morphine derivatives),
including most prescribed drugs. CYP2C19 metabolizes several important types of drugs, including proton pump inhibitors, diazepam, propranolol, imipramine, and amitriptyline.

Some CYP450 enzymes are highly polymorphic, resulting in some enzyme variants that have variable metabolic capacities among individuals, and some with little to no impact on activity. Thus, CYP450 enzymes constitute an important group of drug-gene interactions influencing the variability of the effect of some CYP450-metabolized drugs.

Individuals with 2 copies (alleles) of the most common (wild-type) DNA sequence of a particular CYP450 enzyme gene resulting in an active molecule are termed extensive metabolizers (EMs; normal). Poor metabolizers (PMs) lack active enzyme gene alleles, and intermediate metabolizers, who have one active and one inactive enzyme gene allele, may experience to a lesser degree some of the consequences of PMs. Ultrarapid metabolizers (UMs) are individuals with more than two alleles of an active enzyme gene. There is pronounced ethnic variability in the population distribution of metabolizer types for a given CYP enzyme.

UMs administered an active drug may not reach therapeutic concentrations at usual recommended doses of active drugs, while PMs may suffer more adverse events at usual doses due to reduced metabolism and increased concentrations. Conversely, for administered prodrugs that must be converted by CYP450 enzymes into active metabolites, UMs may suffer adverse events, and PMs may not respond.

Many drugs are metabolized to varying degrees by more than 1 enzyme, either within or outside of the CYP450 superfamily. Also, the interaction between different metabolizing genes, the interaction between genes and environment, and interactions among different nongenetic factors also influence CYP450-specific metabolizing functions. Thus, identification of a variant in a single gene in the metabolic pathway may be insufficient in all but a small proportion of drugs to explain interindividual differences in metabolism and consequent efficacy or toxicity.

**Determining Genetic Variability in Drug Response**

Genetically determined variability in drug response has been traditionally addressed using a trial-and-error approach to prescribing and dosing, along with therapeutic drug monitoring for drugs with a very narrow therapeutic range and/or potentially serious adverse events outside that range. However, therapeutic drug monitoring is not available for all drugs of interest, and a cautious trial-and-error approach can lengthen the time to achieving an effective dose.

CYP450 enzyme phenotyping (identifying metabolizer status) can be accomplished by administering a test enzyme substrate to a patient and monitoring parent substrate and metabolite concentrations over time (e.g., in urine). However, testing and interpretation are time-consuming and inconvenient; as a result, phenotyping is seldom performed.

The clinical utility of CYP450 genotyping (i.e., the likelihood that genotyping will significantly improve drug choice, dosing, and patient outcomes) may be favored when the drug under consideration has a narrow therapeutic dose range, when the consequences of treatment failure are severe, and/or when serious adverse reactions are more likely in patients with gene sequence variants. Under these circumstances, genotyping may direct early selection of the most effective drug or dose, and/or avoid drugs or doses likely to cause toxicity. For example, warfarin, some neuroleptics, and tricyclic antidepressants have narrow therapeutic windows and can cause serious adverse events when concentrations exceed certain limits, resulting in cautious dosing protocols. The potential severity of the disease condition may call for immediate and sufficient therapy; genotyping might speed up the process of achieving a therapeutic dose and avoiding significant adverse events.

**Literature Review**

The primary goal of pharmacogenomics testing and personalized medicine is to achieve better clinical outcomes in compared with the standard of care. Drug response varies greatly between
individuals, and genetic factors are known to play a role. However, in most cases, the genetic variation only explains a modest portion of the variance in the individual response because clinical outcomes are also affected by a wide variety of factors including alternate pathways of metabolism and patient- and disease-related factors that may affect absorption, distribution, and elimination of the drug. Therefore, an assessment of clinical utility cannot be made by a chain of evidence from clinical validity data alone. In such cases, evidence evaluation requires studies that directly demonstrate that the pharmacogenomic test alters clinical outcomes; it is not sufficient to demonstrate that the test predicts a disorder or a phenotype.

Evidence reviews assess the clinical evidence to determine whether the use of technology improves the net health outcome. Broadly defined, health outcomes are the length of life, quality of life, and ability to function—including benefits and harms. Every clinical condition has specific outcomes that are important to patients and managing the course of that condition. Validated outcome measures are necessary to ascertain whether a condition improves or worsens, and whether the magnitude of that change is clinically significant. The net health outcome is a balance of benefits and harms.

To assess whether the evidence is sufficient to draw conclusions about the net health outcome of a technology, two domains are examined: the relevance, and quality and credibility. To be relevant, studies must represent one or more intended clinical use of the technology in the intended population and compare an effective and appropriate alternative at a comparable intensity. For some conditions, the alternative will be supportive care or surveillance. The quality and credibility of the evidence depend on study design and conduct, minimizing bias and confounding that can generate incorrect findings. The randomized controlled trial (RCT) is preferred to assess efficacy; however, in some circumstances, nonrandomized studies may be adequate. RCTs are rarely large enough or long enough to capture less common adverse events and long-term effects. Other types of studies can be used for these purposes and to assess generalizability to broader clinical populations and settings of clinical practice.

P450 Genotype-Guided Treatment Strategy
Clinical Context and Therapy Purpose
The purpose of a P450 genotype-guided strategy is to tailor selection and dosing of drugs based on gene composition for drug metabolism. In theory, this should lead to early selection and optimal dosing of the most effective drugs, while minimizing treatment failures or toxicities.

The question addressed in this evidence review is: Does P450 genotype-guided strategy change patient management in a way that improves net health outcome?

The following PICOTS were used to select literature to inform this review.

Patients
The relevant populations of interest are patients being considered for treatment with clopidogrel, eliglustat, tetrabenazine, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotic drugs, codeine, efavirenz and other antiretroviral therapies for HIV infection, immunosuppressants for organ transplantation, β-blockers (e.g., metoprolol), and antitubercular medications.

Interventions
Commercial tests for individual genes or gene panels are available and are listed in the Regulatory Status section. Only those panels that include CYP450 genes are listed in that section.

Comparators
The following practice is currently being used: standard clinical management without genetic testing.
Outcomes
Specific outcomes of interest are listed in Table 2.

### Table 2. Outcomes of Interest for Individuals With Altered Drug Metabolism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clopidogrel</td>
<td>• Initial and maintenance dose selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Decrease in platelet reactivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Myocardial infarction, cardiovascular or all-cause death, revascularization, fatal/nonfatal cerebrovascular accident, aortic event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly active antiretroviral agents</td>
<td>• Dose selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoidance of treatment failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoidance or reduction of adverse events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressant therapy for organ transplantation</td>
<td>• Dose selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoidance of organ failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoidance or reduction of adverse events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>β-blocker(s)</td>
<td>• Dose selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Superior control of blood pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoidance or reduction of adverse events due to overtreatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antitubercular medications</td>
<td>• Dose selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoidance or reduction of hepatotoxicity due to overtreatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timing
Outcomes in the first 3 months are relevant because the interest is in whether P450 genotype-guided strategy reduces adverse events or avoids treatment failure.

Setting
Consultations about the choice of the drug generally occur in an outpatient setting, and a variety of specialists may be involved including primary care providers (HIV, β-blockers, tuberculosis and cough medications), cardiologists (clopidogrel), psychiatrists (antidepressants, antipsychotics), neurologists (Huntington disease), and endocrinologists (Gaucher disease).

Clopidogrel
Dual antiplatelet therapy with aspirin and a P2Y12 inhibitor (clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor) is the standard of care for the prevention of subsequent atherothrombotic events such as stent thrombosis or recurrent acute coronary syndrome in patients who undergo a percutaneous intervention or who have an acute coronary syndrome.

Clopidogrel is a prodrug that is converted to its active form by several CYP450 enzymes (particularly CYP2C19). Individuals with genetic variants that inactivate the CYP2C19 enzyme are associated with lack of response to clopidogrel. There are several variants of CYP2C19 but the 2 most frequent variants associated with loss of function alleles are CYP2C19*3. It is hypothesized that such individuals may benefit from other drugs such as prasugrel or ticagrelor or a higher dose of clopidogrel. Approximately 30% of whites and blacks and 65% of Asians carry a nonfunctional CYP2C19 gene variant. While CYP2C19 is the major enzyme involved in the generation of clopidogrel active metabolite, the variability in clinical response seen with clopidogrel may also result from other factors such as variable absorption, accelerated platelet turnover, reduced CYP3A metabolic activity, increased adenosine diphosphate exposure, or upregulation of P2Y12 pathways, drug-drug interactions, comorbidities (e.g., diabetes, obesity), and medication adherence.

Multiple observational studies in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) have reported associations between the presence of loss of function alleles and lower levels of active clopidogrel metabolites, high platelet reactivity, and increased risk of adverse cardiovascular events. However, evidence of publication bias has been reported in these studies where smaller studies have reported larger benefits than larger studies which have reported no effect or smaller effect. Wang et al (2016) reported post hoc analysis of the Clopidogrel in High-Risk Patients with Acute Nondisabling Cerebrovascular Events trial conducted in China; it randomized patients with a transient ischemic attack or minor stroke to...
clopidogrel plus aspirin or aspirin alone. In a subgroup analysis of patients who did not have the loss of function alleles, clopidogrel plus aspirin vs aspirin alone was associated with statistical significant reduction in the risk of stroke (6.7% vs 12.4%; hazard ratio, 0.51; 95% confidence interval, 0.35 to 0.75) but not among those who carried loss of function alleles (9.4% vs 10.8%; hazard ratio, 0.93; 95% confidence interval, 0.69 to 1.26). Results of this analysis have contributed to the formulation of the hypothesis of a differential effect of clopidogrel in patients with and without loss of function alleles.

Trials are important to validate such hypotheses. However, only a few trials of genotype-directed dosing or drug choice have been conducted; they are summarized in Tables 3 and 4 and discussed next. It is important to note that these trials use "high on-treatment platelet reactivity" as the outcome measure. Patients who exhibit "high on-treatment platelet reactivity" are referred to as being nonresponsive, hyporesponsive, or resistant to clopidogrel in the published literature.

Roberts et al (2012) reported on the results of an RCT that allocated patients undergoing PCI for acute coronary syndrome or stable angina to genotype-guided management to select for treatment with prasugrel (carriers) or clopidogrel (noncarriers) or to standard treatment with clopidogrel. Among those who received prasugrel and clopidogrel based on genotyping test, 0% and 10% respectively, exhibited high on-treatment reactivity while 17% patients who received standard treatment with clopidogrel without any genotypes testing exhibited high on-treatment reactivity. This difference was not statistically significant. So et al (2016) reported on the results of an RCT that randomized ST-elevation myocardial infarction patients who were augmented carriers of CYP2C19*2, ABCB1 TT, and CYP2C19*17 alleles to prasugrel 10 mg daily or an dosing strategy of clopidogrel (150 mg/d for 6 days and subsequently 75 mg/d). Results showed that (1) carriers did not respond to augmented clopidogrel as well as they did to prasugrel (24% patients with high platelet reactivity vs 0%) and (2) among noncarriers, physician-directed clopidogrel was effective for most patients (95% did not have high platelet reactivity).

### Table 3. Summary of Key RCT Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study; Trial</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>So et al (2016)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>18-75 y who had PCI for STEMI who received POC testing for CYP2C19<em>2, ABCB1 TT, and CYP2C19</em>17 alleles (N=102)</td>
<td>Active: Carriers randomized to prasugrel 10 mg/d (n=30) or augmented clopidogrel (150 mg/d for 6 d and then 75 mg/d) (n=29) Comparator: Noncarriers given clopidogrel with dosing as per treating physician (n=43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberts et al (2012)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>18-75 y undergoing PCI for acute coronary syndrome or stable angina (n=200)</td>
<td>POC testing for CYP2C19*2 allele (n=102). Of these, 23 carriers were given prasugrel 10 mg/d, and 74 noncarriers were given clopidogrel 75 mg/d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PCI: percutaneous coronary intervention; POC: point of care; RCT: randomized controlled trial; STEMI: ST-elevation myocardial infarction.

### Table 4. Summary of Key RCT Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study; Trial</th>
<th>High Platelet Reactivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>So et al (2016)</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carriers</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prasugrel</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augmented clopidogrel</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncarriers</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clopidogrel as per treating physician</td>
<td>0.0046; 0.507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Study; Trial | High Platelet Reactivity<sup>a</sup>  
---|---  
Roberts et al (2012)<sup>8</sup>; RAPID GENE | 187  
Genotype-guided management |  
Prasugrel 10 mg/d | 0%  
Clopidogrel 75 mg/d | 10%  
Entire cohort | 10%  
Standard clinical management |  
Clopidogrel 75 mg/d | 17%<sup>e</sup>  
p | NS  

RCT: randomized controlled trial.  
P2Y12 reaction unit >234 (a measure of high on-treatment platelet reactivity).  
b Prasugrel vs augmented clopidogrel.  
c Prasugrel vs physician-directed clopidogrel.  
d At 30 days.  
e At 1 week.

The purpose of the gaps tables (see Tables 5 and 6) is to display notable gaps identified in each study. This information is synthesized as a summary of the body of evidence following each table and provides the conclusions on the sufficiency of the evidence supporting the position statement. The studies were, in general, well-designed and conducted, the major limitation being the use of platelet activity, which is an intermediate outcome measure, and lack of reporting on health endpoints over a longer follow-up.

Platelet reactivity during treatment is an intermediate endpoint that has been shown to have a limited value in guiding therapeutic decisions based on results of the large Assessment by a Double Randomization of a Conventional Antiplatelet Strategy Versus a Monitoring-Guided Strategy for Drug-Eluting Stent Implantation and of Treatment Interruption Versus Continuation One Year After Stenting (ARCTIC) RCT<sup>9,10</sup>. Briefly, the ARCTIC trial randomized 2440 patients scheduled for coronary stenting to platelet-function monitoring or no monitoring. Platelet-function testing was performed in the monitored group both before and 14 to 30 days after PCI. Multiple therapeutic changes, including an additional loading dose of clopidogrel (at a dose ≥600 mg) or a loading dose of prasugrel (at a dose of 60 mg) before the procedure, followed by a daily maintenance dose of clopidogrel 150 mg or prasugrel 10 mg, were made according to a predefined protocol. There was no difference in the rate of the primary composite endpoint (death, myocardial infarction, stent thrombosis, stroke, or urgent revascularization) at 1 year between the monitoring (34.6%) and no monitoring groups (31.1%). In the absence of results from well-performed randomized trials designed to evaluate this issue, performing routine genetic testing or ex vivo tests of platelet reactivity to predict CYP2C19 metabolic state and identify poor metabolizers has not been shown to improve health clinical outcomes. The Tailored Antiplatelet Initiation to Lesson Outcomes Dueto Decreased Clopidogrel Response After Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (TAILOR-PCI; NCT01742117) is a large ongoing RCT that will randomize 5270 patients undergoing PCI to clopidogrel without prospective genotyping guidance or a prospective CYP2C19 genotype-based antiplatelet therapy approach (ticagrelor 90 mg bid in CYP2C19<sup>*2</sup> or CYP2C19<sup>*3</sup> reduced function allele patients, clopidogrel 75 mg once daily in non-CYP2C19<sup>*2</sup> or -CYP2C19<sup>*3</sup> patients). The trial is expected to be completed in March 2020.

### Table 5. Relevance Gaps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Population&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Intervention&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Comparator&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Outcomes&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Follow-Up&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>So et al (2016)&lt;sup&gt;7&lt;/sup&gt;; RAPID STEMI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Platelet activity is an intermediate outcome measure 3. CONSORT harms not reported</td>
<td>1, 2. Outcomes assessed at 1mo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberts et al (2012)&lt;sup&gt;8&lt;/sup&gt;; RAPID GENE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Platelet activity is an intermediate outcome measure 3. CONSORT harms no reported</td>
<td>1, 2. Outcomes assessed at 1wk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The evidence gaps stated in this table are those notable in the current review; this is not a comprehensive gaps assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Blinding</th>
<th>Selective Reporting</th>
<th>Data Completeness</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Statistical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>So et al (2016)7,8; RAPID STEMI</td>
<td>3. Allocation concealment unclear</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roberts et al (2012); RAPID GENE8</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section Summary: Clopidogrel

Two RCTs have evaluated the role of genetic testing for CYP2C19 for selecting appropriate antiplatelet treatment and/or amplified dosing of clopidogrel using an intermediate outcome measure of platelet reactivity to predict CYP2C19 metabolic state. One RCT has shown there was no statistical difference in patients with "on-treatment high platelet reactivity" who received genotype-guided management or standard treatment with clopidogrel. The second RCT showed that carriers of loss of function alleles did not respond to augmented clopidogrel as well as they did to prasugrel, while physician-directed clopidogrel was effective for most noncarriers. However, routine testing using platelet reactivity as an outcome measure to predict CYP2C19 metabolic state has not been shown to improve health outcomes. Results of an ongoing RCT (TAILOR-PCI), assessing outcomes in 5270 patients randomized to genotype-based antiplatelet therapy approach or standard care, are expected in 2020 and likely to address this gap.

Selection and Dosing of Other Drugs

Antiretroviral Agents

Efavirenz is a widely used non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor component of highly active antiretroviral therapy for patients with HIV infection. However, unpredictable interindividual variability in efficacy and toxicity remain important limitations associated with its use. Forty percent to 70% of patients have reported adverse central nervous system events. While most resolve in the first few weeks of treatment, about 6% of patients discontinue efavirenz due to adverse events.11. Efavirenz is primarily metabolized by the CYP2B6 enzyme, and
Inactivating variants such as CYP2B6*6 are associated with higher efavirenz exposure, although plasma levels appear not to correlate with adverse events. On the other hand, CYP2B6 poor metabolizers have markedly reduced adverse events while maintaining viral immunosuppression at substantially lower doses. An increased early discontinuation rate with efavirenz has been reported in retrospective cohort studies evaluating multiple CYP450 variants including CYP2B6, CYP2B6 G516T and T983C single nucleotide variants were reported by Ciccacci et al (2013) to be associated with susceptibility to Stevens-Johnson syndrome in a case-control study of 27 patients who received nevirapine-containing antiretroviral treatment. The current evidence documenting the usefulness of CYP450 variant genotyping to prospectively guide antiretroviral medications and assess its impact on clinical outcomes is lacking.

**Immunosuppressants for Therapy for Organ Transplantation**

Tacrolimus is the mainstay immunosuppressant drug and multiple studies have shown that individuals who express CYP3A5 (extensive and intermediate metabolizers) generally have decreased dose-adjusted trough concentrations of tacrolimus, possibly delaying achievement of target blood concentrations compared with those who are CYP3A5 nonexpressers (poor metabolizers) in whom drug levels may be elevated and possibly result in nephrotoxicity. The current evidence demonstrating the impact of CYP3A5 genotyping to guide tacrolimus dosing and its impact on clinical outcomes includes RCTs by Thervet et al (2010) and Min et al (2018). Both RCTs compared the impact of CYP3A5 genotype-informed dosing with standard dosing strategies on tacrolimus drug levels. The trials were not powered to assess any clinical outcomes such as graft function or survival, which otherwise were similar between groups in Thervet et al (2010).

**B-Blockers**

Several reports have indicated that lipophilic b-blockers (e.g., metoprolol), used in treating hypertension, may exhibit impaired elimination in patients with CYP2D6 variants. The current evidence documenting the usefulness of CYP2D6 genotyping to prospectively guide antitubercular medications and assess its impact on clinical outcomes is lacking.

**Antitubercular Medications**

A number of studies, summarized in a systematic review by Wang et al (2016), have reported an association between CYP2E1 status and the risk of liver toxicity from antitubercular medications. The current evidence documenting the usefulness of CYP2E1 genotyping to prospectively guide antitubercular medications and assess its impact on clinical outcomes is lacking.

**Section Summary: Selection and Dosing of Other Drugs**

In general, most published CYP450 pharmacogenomic studies for highly active antiretroviral agents, b-blockers, and antitubercular medications are retrospective evaluations of CYP450 genotype associations, reporting intermediate outcomes (e.g., circulating drug concentrations) or less often, final outcomes (e.g., adverse events or efficacy). Many of these studies are small, underpowered, and hypothesis generating. Prospective intervention studies, including RCTs documenting clinical usefulness of CYP450 genotyping to improve existing clinical decision-making to guide dose or drug selection, which will then translate into improvement in patient outcomes, were not identified.

**Summary of Evidence**

**Clopidogrel**

For individuals with a need for antiplatelet therapy who are undergoing or being considered for clopidogrel therapy who receive a CYP2C19-guided treatment strategy, the evidence includes 2 RCTs. The relevant outcomes are overall survival, medication use, and treatment-related morbidity. The 2 RCTs evaluated the impact of CYP2C19 genotyping using an intermediate outcome measure (platelet reactivity). One RCT showed no statistical difference between patients with on-treatment high platelet reactivity between genotype-guided
management or standard treatment with clopidogrel. The second RCT showed carriers of loss of function alleles did not respond to augmented clopidogrel as well as they did to prasugrel, and physician-directed clopidogrel was effective for most noncarriers. However, routine testing using platelet reactivity as an outcome measure to predict CYP2C19 metabolic state has not been shown to improve health outcomes. Results of an ongoing RCT (TAILOR-PCI), assessing outcomes in 5270 patients randomized to genotype-based antiplatelet therapy approach or standard care, are expected in 2020 and likely to address this gap. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Other Drugs
For individuals who are undergoing or being considered for treatment with highly active antiretroviral agents, immunosuppressant therapy for organ transplantation, β-blockers, or antitubercular medications who receive a CYP2C19-guided treatment strategy, the evidence includes retrospective studies. The relevant outcomes are medication use and treatment-related morbidity. In general, most published CYP450 pharmacogenomic studies for these drugs consist of retrospective evaluations of CYP450 genotype associations, reporting intermediate outcomes (e.g., circulating drug concentrations) or less often, final outcomes (e.g., adverse events or efficacy). Many of these studies are small, underpowered and hypothesis generating. Prospective intervention studies, including RCTs documenting the clinical usefulness of CYP450 genotyping to improve existing clinical decision making to guide dose or drug selection, which may then translate into improvement in patient outcomes, were not identified. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Supplemental Information
Clinical Input From Physician Specialty Societies and Academic Medical Centers
While the various physician specialty societies and academic medical centers may collaborate with and make recommendations during this process, through the provision of appropriate reviewers, input received does not represent an endorsement or position statement by the physician specialty societies or academic medical centers, unless otherwise noted.

In response to requests, input was received from 4 physician specialty societies and 4 academic medical centers while this policy was under review in 2012. Opinions on use of genotype testing of patients being considered for clopidogrel treatment were mixed, with five suggesting the test be considered investigational and three suggesting it be considered medically necessary.

Practice Guidelines and Position Statements
A consensus statement by the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF) and the American Heart Association (AHA) on genetic testing for the selection and dosing of clopidogrel was published in 2010. The recommendations for practice included the following statements:

- 1. "Adherence to existing ACCF/AHA guidelines for the use of antiplatelet therapy should remain the foundation for therapy. Careful clinical judgment is required to assess the importance of the variability in response to clopidogrel for an individual patient and its associated risk to the patient…"
- 2. "Clinicians must be aware that genetic variability in CYP enzymes alter clopidogrel metabolism, which in turn can affect its inhibition of platelet function. Diminished responsiveness to clopidogrel has been associated with adverse patient outcomes in registry experiences and clinical trials."
- 3. "The specific impact of the individual genetic polymorphisms on clinical outcome remains to be determined…."
- 4. "Information regarding the predictive value of pharmacogenomic testing is very limited at this time; resolution of this issue is the focus of multiple ongoing studies. The selection of the specific test, as well as the issue of reimbursement, is both important additional considerations."

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5. The evidence base is insufficient to recommend either routine genetic or platelet function testing at the present time.
6. There are several possible therapeutic options for patients who experience an adverse event while taking clopidogrel in the absence of any concern about medication compliance."

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations
No U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations for cytochrome P450 have been identified.

Medicare National Coverage
There is no national coverage determination. In the absence of a national coverage determination, coverage decisions are left to the discretion of local Medicare carriers.

Ongoing and Unpublished Clinical Trials
Some currently unpublished trials that might influence this review are listed in Table 7.

Table 7. Summary of Key Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCTNo.</th>
<th>Trial Name</th>
<th>Planned Enrollment</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCT01761786</td>
<td>Cost-effectiveness of Genotype Guided Treatment With Antiplatelet Drugs in STEMI Patients: Optimization of Treatment (POPular Genetics)</td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT01742117a</td>
<td>Tailored Antiplatelet Initiation to Lesson Outcomes Due to Decreased Clopidogrel Response After Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (TAILOR-PCI)</td>
<td>5270</td>
<td>Mar 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCT: national clinical trial.
Denotes industry-sponsored or cosponsored trial.

References


**Documentation for Clinical Review**

Please provide the following documentation (if/when requested):

- **History and physical and/or consultation notes including:**
  - Reason for performing test
  - Signs/symptoms/test results related to reason for genetic testing
  - How test result will impact clinical decision making
  - Diagnosis being considered for treatment

- **Physician order for genetic test:**
  - Name and description of genetic test
2.04.38  Cytochrome P450 Genotype-Guided Treatment Strategy
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- Name of laboratory that performed the test
- Any available evidence supporting the clinical validity/utility of the specific test
- CPT codes billed for the particular genetic test

Post Service
- Laboratory report including: specific name and test requested

Coding

This Policy relates only to the services or supplies described herein. Benefits may vary according to product design; therefore, contract language should be reviewed before applying the terms of the Policy. Inclusion or exclusion of codes does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

MN/IE
The following services may be considered medically necessary in certain instances and investigational in others. Services may be considered medically necessary when policy criteria are met. Services may be considered investigational when the policy criteria are not met or when the code describes application of a product in the position statement that is investigational.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0028U</td>
<td>CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, copy number variants, common variants with reflex to targeted sequence analysis (Deleted code effective 10/1/2018)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0029U</td>
<td>Drug metabolism (adverse drug reactions and drug response), targeted sequence analysis (i.e., CYP1A2, CYP2C19, CYP2C9, CYP2D6, CYP3A4, CYP3A5, CYP4F2, SLC01B1, VKORC1 and rs12777823) (Code effective 1/1/2018)</td>
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<td>0031U</td>
<td>CYP1A2 (cytochrome P450 family 1, subfamily A, member 2) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, common variants (i.e., *1F, *1K, *6, *7) (Code effective 1/1/2018)</td>
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<td>0071U</td>
<td>CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, full gene sequence (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (Code effective 10/1/2018)</td>
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<td>0072U</td>
<td>CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (i.e., CYP2D6-2D7 hybrid gene) (Code effective 10/1/2018)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0073U</td>
<td>CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (i.e., CYP2D7-2D6 hybrid gene) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (Code effective 10/1/2018)</td>
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<td>0074U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
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<td>--------</td>
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<td>0075U</td>
<td>CYP2D6 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily D, polypeptide 6) (e.g., drug metabolism) gene analysis, targeted sequence analysis (i.e., 5' gene duplication/multiplication) <em>(Code effective 10/1/2018)</em></td>
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<td>81225</td>
<td>CYP2C19 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily C, polypeptide 19) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variants (e.g., *2, *3, *4, *8, *17)</td>
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<td>81227</td>
<td>CYP2C9 (cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily C, polypeptide 9) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variants (e.g., *2, *3, *5, *6)</td>
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<td>81230</td>
<td>CYP3A4 (cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 4) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variant(s) (e.g., *2, *22) <em>(Code effective 1/1/2018)</em></td>
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<td>81231</td>
<td>CYP3A5 (cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 5) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis, common variants (e.g., *2, *3, *4, *5, *6, *7) <em>(Code effective 1/1/2018)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>81402</td>
<td>Molecular Pathology Procedure Level 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>81404</td>
<td>Molecular Pathology Procedure Level 5</td>
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<td>HCPCS</td>
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**Policy History**

This section provides a chronological history of the activities, updates and changes that have occurred with this Medical Policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/01/2010</td>
<td>New policy Combined the following BSC policies: • Cytochrome p450 Genotyping • Genetic Testing for Initial Warfarin Dose with BCBSA Medical Policy adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/12/2012</td>
<td>Coding Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/22/2013</td>
<td>Coding Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/04/2014</td>
<td>Policy revision with position change Coding Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/29/2015</td>
<td>Coding update</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/01/2016</td>
<td>Policy title change from Pharmacogenomics Policy revision with position change effective 5/1/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/01/2016</td>
<td>Policy revision with position change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/01/2017</td>
<td>Policy revision without position change</td>
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<td>02/01/2018</td>
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<td>Policy revision without position change</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/01/2020</td>
<td>Coding update</td>
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</table>
# Definitions of Decision Determinations

**Medically Necessary:** Services that are Medically Necessary include only those which have been established as safe and effective, are furnished under generally accepted professional standards to treat illness, injury or medical condition, and which, as determined by Blue Shield, are: (a) consistent with Blue Shield medical policy; (b) consistent with the symptoms or diagnosis; (c) not furnished primarily for the convenience of the patient, the attending Physician or other provider; (d) furnished at the most appropriate level which can be provided safely and effectively to the patient; and (e) not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of the Member’s illness, injury, or disease.

**Investigational/Experimental:** A treatment, procedure, or drug is investigational when it has not been recognized as safe and effective for use in treating the particular condition in accordance with generally accepted professional medical standards. This includes services where approval by the federal or state governmental is required prior to use, but has not yet been granted.

**Split Evaluation:** Blue Shield of California/Blue Shield of California Life & Health Insurance Company (Blue Shield) policy review can result in a split evaluation, where a treatment, procedure, or drug will be considered to be investigational for certain indications or conditions, but will be deemed safe and effective for other indications or conditions, and therefore potentially medically necessary in those instances.

## Prior Authorization Requirements (as applicable to your plan)

Within five days before the actual date of service, the provider must confirm with Blue Shield that the member's health plan coverage is still in effect. Blue Shield reserves the right to revoke an authorization prior to services being rendered based on cancellation of the member's eligibility. Final determination of benefits will be made after review of the claim for limitations or exclusions.

Questions regarding the applicability of this policy should be directed to the Prior Authorization Department at (800) 541-6652, or the Transplant Case Management Department at (800) 637-2066 ext. 3507708 or visit the provider portal at www.blueshieldca.com/provider.

Disclaimer: This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. Blue Shield of California may consider published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines, and local standards of practice in developing its medical policy. Federal and state law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over medical policy and must be considered first in determining covered services. Member contracts may differ in their benefits. Blue Shield reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate.