

BSC_CON_2.22 Genetic Testing: Kidney Disorders			
Original Policy Date:	April 1, 2024	Effective Date:	April 1, 2024
Section:	2.0 Medicine	Page:	Page 1 of 13

Example Test Table

The tests and associated laboratories and CPT codes contained within this document serve only as examples to help users navigate claims and corresponding coverage criteria; as such, they are not comprehensive and are not a guarantee of coverage or non-coverage. Please see the [Concert Genetics](#) Platform for a comprehensive list of registered tests.

Policy Statement Locations	Example Tests, Labs	Common CPT Codes
Polycystic Kidney Disease		
Targeted Variant Analysis	Targeted Mutation Analysis for a Known Familial Variant	81403
Single gene or Multigene Panel	Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease via the PKD1 Gene (PreventionGenetics, part of Exact Sciences)	81407, 81479
	PKD2 Full Gene Sequencing and Deletion/Duplication (Invitae)	81406, 81479
	Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease (ARPKD) via the PKHD1 Gene (PreventionGenetics, part of Exact Sciences)	81408, 81479
	Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) via the GANAB Gene (PreventionGenetics, part of Exact Sciences)	81479
	Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) via the DNAJB11 Gene (PreventionGenetics, part of Exact Sciences)	
	Hereditary Cystic Kidney Diseases Panel (PreventionGenetics, part of Exact Sciences)	81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479
	Polycystic Kidney Disease Panel (GeneDx)	
Comprehensive Kidney Disease Panels		
Comprehensive Kidney Disease Panels	RenaSight (Natera)	81401, 81402, 81403, 81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479
	KidneySeq Version 5 Comprehensive Testing (Iowa Institute of Human Genetics)	
	RenalZoom (DNA Diagnostic Laboratory - Johns Hopkins Hospital)	
APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease		
Targeted Variant Analysis	Apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) Renal Risk Variant Genotyping (Quest Diagnostics)	0355U
	APOL1 Genotype, Varies (Mayo Clinic Laboratories)	81479

Policy Statement Locations	Example Tests, Labs	Common CPT Codes
Donor-Derived Cell Free DNA for Kidney Transplant Rejection		
Donor-Derived Cell Free DNA for Kidney Transplant Rejection	Allosure Kidney (CareDx, Inc.)	81479
	Prospera Kidney (Natera)	
	Viracor TRAC Kidney dd-cfDNA (Viracor Eurofins)	0118U
Other Covered Kidney Disorders		
Other Covered Kidney Disorders	See list in policy statement section	81400, 81401, 81402, 81403, 81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 0268U

Policy Statement

Polycystic Kidney Disease

Targeted Variant Analysis

- I. *PKD1*, *PKD2*, *GANAB*, or *DNAJB11* targeted variant analysis (81403) to establish a diagnosis of autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease may be considered **medically necessary** when:
 - A. The member has a [close relative](#) with a known pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant in *PKD1*, *PKD2*, *GANAB*, or *DNAJB11*.
- II. *PKHD1* targeted variant analysis (81403) to establish a diagnosis of autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease may be considered **medically necessary** when:
 - A. The member has a biological [full sibling](#) with known biallelic pathogenic or likely pathogenic variants in *PKHD1*.
- III. *PKD1*, *PKD2*, *GANAB*, *DNAJB11*, or *PKHD1* targeted variant analysis (81403) to establish a diagnosis of autosomal dominant or autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

Single Gene or Multigene Panel

- IV. *PKD1* (81407, 81479), *PKD2* (81406, 81479), *GANAB* (81479), *DNAJB11* (81479), *PKHD1* (81408, 81479) sequencing and/or deletion/duplication analysis or multigene panel analysis (81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479) to confirm or establish a diagnosis of polycystic kidney disease may be considered **medically necessary** when:
 - A. The member has **any** of the following clinical features of polycystic kidney disease:
 1. Multiple bilateral renal cysts
 2. Cysts in organs other than the kidneys (especially the liver, seminal vesicles, pancreas, and arachnoid membrane)
 3. Hypertension in an individual younger than age 35
 4. Intracranial aneurysm
 5. Bilaterally enlarged and diffusely echogenic kidneys
 6. Poor corticomedullary differentiation
 7. Hepatobiliary abnormalities with progressive portal hypertension
 8. Congenital hepatic fibrosis (CHF) with portal hypertension.
- V. *PKD1* (81407, 81479), *PKD2* (81406, 81479), *GANAB* (81479), *DNAJB11* (81479), *PKHD1* (81408, 81479) sequencing and/or deletion/duplication analysis or multigene panel analysis (81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479) to confirm or establish a diagnosis of polycystic kidney disease is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

Comprehensive Kidney Disease Panels

- VI. Genetic testing for kidney disease via a comprehensive kidney disease panel (81401, 81402, 81403, 81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479) may be considered **medically necessary** when **both** of the following criteria are met:
 - A. The member has chronic kidney disease with an undetermined cause after undergoing standard-of-care workup studies (examples: history and physical examination, biochemical testing, renal imaging, or renal biopsy)
 - B. The member meets at least **one** of the following:
 - 1. Onset of chronic kidney disease under 40 years of age
 - 2. One or more [first- or second-degree relatives](#) with chronic kidney disease
 - 3. Consanguineous family history
 - 4. Cystic renal disease
 - 5. Congenital nephropathy.
- VII. Genetic testing for kidney disease via a comprehensive kidney disease panel (81401, 81402, 81403, 81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479) is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease

Targeted Variant Analysis

- VIII. Targeted variant analysis for the *APOL1* high-risk genotype (i.e., G1/G1, G1/G2, or G2/G2) (0355U, 81479) may be considered **medically necessary** when:
 - A. The member has kidney disease, **AND** has **either** of the following criteria:
 - 1. The member is of African ancestry
 - 2. The member has a family member with a confirmed *APOL1* high-risk genotype (i.e., G1/G1, G1/G2, or G2/G2)
- IX. Targeted variant analysis for the *APOL1* high-risk genotype (i.e., G1/G1, G1/G2, or G2/G2) (0355U, 81479) is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

Donor-Derived Cell-Free DNA For Kidney Transplant Rejection

- X. The use of peripheral blood measurement of donor-derived cell-free DNA in the management of patients after renal transplantation (81479, 0118U) is considered **investigational** for all indications, including but not limited to:
 - A. Detection of acute renal transplant rejection
 - B. Detection of renal transplant graft dysfunction

Other Covered Kidney Disorders

The following is a list of conditions that have a known genetic association. Due to their relative rareness, it may be appropriate to cover these genetic tests to establish or confirm a diagnosis.

- XI. Genetic testing to establish or confirm one of the following genetic kidney disorders to guide management may be considered **medically necessary** when the member demonstrates clinical features* consistent with the disorder (the list is not meant to be comprehensive, see XII below):
 - A. [Alport Syndrome](#)
 - B. [C3 Glomerulopathy](#)
 - C. Congenital nephrotic syndrome
 - D. [Cystinosis](#)
 - E. Cystinuria
 - F. [Fabry Disease](#)
 - G. [Genetic \(familial\) atypical hemolytic-uremic syndrome \(aHUS\)](#)
 - H. Primary Hyperoxaluria

- XII. Genetic testing to establish or confirm the diagnosis of all other kidney disorders not specifically discussed within this or another medical policy will be evaluated by the criteria outlined in *General Approach to Genetic and Molecular Testing* (see policy for coverage criteria).

*Clinical features for a specific disorder may be outlined in resources such as [GeneReviews](#), [OMIM](#), [National Library of Medicine](#), [Genetics Home Reference](#), or other scholarly source.

NOTE: Refer to [Appendix A](#) to see the policy statement changes (if any) from the previous version.

Policy Guidelines

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. **Full siblings** are individuals who share the same biological parents.

Description

Inherited kidney disorders and inherited disorders that indirectly affect the kidneys can be more common, such as autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease, or more rarely Lowe syndrome and Fabry disease. Identifying the genetic cause of an inherited kidney disorder can help direct treatment, inform family members, and contribute to the overall understanding of the genetic etiology of chronic kidney disease. More advanced next-generation sequencing, such as exome sequencing and comprehensive genetic testing panels, are emerging as a first-line diagnostic method for patients with chronic kidney disease.

Related Policies

This policy document provides coverage criteria for hereditary kidney disorders. Please refer to:

- ***Genetic Testing: Multisystem Inherited Disorders, Intellectual Disability, and Developmental Delay*** for coverage criteria related to genetic disorders that affect multiple organ systems ***(to be published)***
- ***Genetic Testing: Hereditary Cancer Susceptibility*** for coverage criteria related to von Hippel Lindau (VHL) syndrome and other hereditary cancer syndromes. ***(to be published)***
- ***Genetic Testing: General Approach to Genetic and Molecular Testing*** for coverage criteria related to genetic testing for kidney disease that is not specifically discussed in this or another non-general policy.

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

- N/A

Rationale

Polycystic Kidney Disease - Targeted Variant Analysis

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.

Polycystic Kidney Disease - Single Gene or Multigene Panel

GeneReviews: Polycystic Kidney Disease, Autosomal Dominant and Polycystic Kidney Disease, Autosomal Recessive

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. The recommended polycystic kidney disease testing for autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) and autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD) is as follows:

"ADPKD should be suspected in individuals with the following:

- Multiple bilateral renal cysts and the absence of manifestations suggestive of a different renal cystic disease
- Cysts in other organs, especially the liver, but also seminal vesicles, pancreas, and arachnoid membrane...
- Hypertension in an individual younger than age 35 years
- An intracranial aneurysm..."

"Autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD) should be suspected in individuals with bilaterally enlarged, diffusely echogenic kidneys...[and] one or more of the following:...Clinical/laboratory signs of congenital hepatic fibrosis (CHF) that leads to portal hypertension..."

"The renal diagnostic criteria for ARPKD detected by ultrasonography are:

- Increased renal size (in relation to normative size based on age and size of the affected individual);
- Increased echogenicity;
- Poor corticomedullary differentiation"

"[In] Childhood and young adulthood...The hepatobiliary abnormalities with progressive portal hypertension are often the prominent presenting features."

Comprehensive Kidney Disease Panels

Hays et al (2020)

"We propose the following approach, based on a review of current literature and our practical experience. This approach assumes individuals have already undergone an initial nephrologic workup, including biochemical and serologic testing, imaging of the kidneys, and renal biopsy if indicated.

...[A]fter a negative or inconclusive initial workup, a patient is considered to have KDUE [kidney disease of unknown etiology] and may then be stratified according to the probability of a genetic disease. We consider higher probability patients as those with the following risk factors: early-onset disease (age <40 years), a positive family history of CKD [chronic kidney disease], consanguinity, extrarenal anomalies, cystic renal disease, or congenital nephropathy". (p. 594)

APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease

Freedman et al (2021)

A multidisciplinary group of experts and patient advocates performed a systematic review and created consensus-based guidelines in 2021 to guide health care providers in *APOL1*-associated neuropathy. The guidelines recommend the following:

"...*APOL1* testing should be considered in all patients of African ancestry with kidney disease and in any patient with kidney disease and a family member with a confirmed *APOL1* high-risk genotype." (p. 1768)

Regarding the definition of "high-risk phenotype": "Two copies of the *APOL1* variants (G1/G1, G1/G2, G2/G2) are commonly referred to as a 'high-risk' genotype..." (p. 1765)

Donor-Derived Cell-Free DNA for Kidney Transplant Rejection

Knight et al (2019)

A publication in the journal *Transplantation* entitled "Donor-specific Cell-free DNA as a Biomarker in Solid Organ Transplantation. A Systematic Review" stated the following:

In summary, donor-derived cfDNA shows promise as a biomarker for the detection of acute transplant graft injury. It has potential to reduce the need for protocol biopsy surveillance, allowing for a more targeted diagnostic approach. Detection of injury occurs before clinical manifestation, meaning that there is a window for earlier detection and treatment of AR [acute rejection] and other causes of graft injury with the potential to improve outcomes. It may also facilitate the detection of under immunosuppression and find use as a tool for monitoring during immunosuppression minimization. Further studies are required to validate the thresholds for further investigation and intervention, determine the optimum frequency for monitoring, and to identify whether prospective monitoring using dd-cfDNA can indeed improve transplant outcomes compared to current practice. (p. 280)

References

1. Harris PC, Torres VE. Polycystic Kidney Disease, Autosomal Dominant. 2002 Jan 10 [Updated 2022 Sep 29]. In: Adam MP, Ardinger HH, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2023. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1246/>
2. Sweeney WE, Avner ED. Polycystic Kidney Disease, Autosomal Recessive. 2001 Jul 19 [Updated 2019 Feb 14]. In: Adam MP, Ardinger HH, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2023. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1326/>
3. Hays T, Groopman EE, Gharavi AG. Genetic testing for kidney disease of unknown etiology. *Kidney Int.* 2020;98(3):590-600. doi:10.1016/j.kint.2020.03.031
4. Adam MP, Ardinger HH, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2023. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1116/>

5. Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man, OMIM. McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD). World Wide Web URL: <https://omim.org/>
6. MedlinePlus [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US). Available from: <https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/>.
7. Knight SR, Thorne A, Lo Faro ML. Donor-specific cell-free DNA as a biomarker in solid organ transplantation. A systematic review. *Transplantation*. 2019;103(2):273-283.
8. Genetic Support Foundation. Genetics 101 Genetic Testing: Familial Pathogenic Variant. Accessed 10/4/2022. <https://geneticsupportfoundation.org/genetics-101/#>
9. Freedman BI, Burke W, Divers J, et al. Diagnosis, education, and care of patients with APOL1-associated nephropathy: a Delphi consensus and systematic review. *JASN*. 2021;32(7):1765-1778.

Documentation for Clinical Review

Please provide the following documentation:

- Name of the test being requested or the Concert Genetics GTU identifier. The Concert Genetics GTU can be found at <https://app.concertgenetics.com>
- CPT codes to be billed for the particular genetic test (GTU required for unlisted codes)
- History and physical and/or consultation notes including:
 - Clinical findings:
 - Signs/symptoms leading to a suspicion of genetic condition
 - Family history if applicable
 - Prior evaluation/treatment:
 - Previous test results (i.e., imaging, lab work, etc.) related to reason for genetic testing
 - Family member's genetic test result, if applicable
 - Rationale
 - Reason for performing test
 - How test result will impact clinical decision making

Post Service (in addition to the above, please include the following):

- Results/reports of tests performed

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.

The following codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement policy. Policy Statements are intended to provide member coverage information and may include the use of some codes for clarity. The Policy Guidelines section may also provide additional information for how to interpret the Policy Statements and to provide coding guidance in some cases.

Type	Code	Description
CPT®	0118U	Transplantation medicine, quantification of donor-derived cell-free DNA using whole genome next-generation sequencing, plasma, reported as percentage of donor-derived cell-free DNA in the total cell-free DNA
	0268U	Hematology (atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome [aHUS]), genomic sequence analysis of 15 genes, blood, buccal swab, or amniotic fluid

Type	Code	Description
	0355U	POL1 (apolipoprotein L1) (e.g., chronic kidney disease), risk variants (G1, G2)
	81400	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 1 (e.g., identification of single germline variant [e.g., SNP] by techniques such as restriction enzyme digestion or melt curve analysis)
	81401	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 2 (e.g., 2-10 SNPs, 1 methylated variant, or 1 somatic variant [typically using nonsequencing target variant analysis], or detection of a dynamic mutation disorder/triplet repeat)
	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])
	81403	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 4 (e.g., analysis of single exon by DNA sequence analysis, analysis of >10 amplicons using multiplex PCR in 2 or more independent reactions, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 2-5 exons)
	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)
	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)
	81406	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 7 (e.g., analysis of 11-25 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of 26-50 exons)
	81407	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 8 (e.g., analysis of 26-50 exons by DNA sequence analysis, mutation scanning or duplication/deletion variants of >50 exons, sequence analysis of multiple genes on one platform)
	81408	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 9 (e.g., analysis of >50 exons in a single gene by DNA sequence analysis)
	81479	Unlisted molecular pathology procedure
HCPCS	None	

Policy History

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

Effective Date	Action
04/01/2024	New policy.

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 and Feedback (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.

We are interested in receiving feedback relative to developing, adopting, and reviewing criteria for medical policy. Any licensed practitioner who is contracted with Blue Shield of California or Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan is welcome to provide comments, suggestions, or concerns. Our internal policy committees will receive and take your comments into consideration.

For utilization and medical policy feedback, please send comments to: MedPolicy@blueshieldca.com

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.

Appendix A

POLICY STATEMENT	
BEFORE	AFTER
<p>New Policy</p> <p>Policy Statement: N/A</p>	<p>Genetic Testing: Kidney Disorders BSC_CON_2.22</p> <p>Policy Statement: Polycystic Kidney Disease Targeted Variant Analysis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. <i>PKD1, PKD2, GANAB, or DNAJB11</i> targeted variant analysis (81403) to establish a diagnosis of autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease may be considered medically necessary when: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The member has a close relative with a known pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant in <i>PKD1, PKD2, GANAB, or DNAJB11</i>. II. <i>PKHD1</i> targeted variant analysis (81403) to establish a diagnosis of autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease may be considered medically necessary when: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The member has a biological full sibling with known biallelic pathogenic or likely pathogenic variants in <i>PKHD1</i>. III. <i>PKD1, PKD2, GANAB, DNAJB11, or PKHD1</i> targeted variant analysis (81403) to establish a diagnosis of autosomal dominant or autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease is considered investigational for all other indications. <p>Single Gene or Multigene Panel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> IV. <i>PKD1</i>(81407, 81479), <i>PKD2</i>(81406, 81479), <i>GANAB</i>(81479), <i>DNAJB11</i>(81479), <i>PKHD1</i>(81408, 81479) sequencing and/or deletion/duplication analysis or multigene panel analysis (81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479) to confirm or establish a diagnosis of polycystic kidney disease may be considered medically necessary when: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The member has any of the following clinical features of polycystic kidney disease: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiple bilateral renal cysts 2. Cysts in organs other than the kidneys (especially the liver, seminal vesicles, pancreas, and arachnoid membrane) 3. Hypertension in an individual younger than age 35

POLICY STATEMENT

BEFORE

AFTER

4. Intracranial aneurysm
5. Bilaterally enlarged and diffusely echogenic kidneys
6. Poor corticomedullary differentiation
7. Hepatobiliary abnormalities with progressive portal hypertension
8. Congenital hepatic fibrosis (CHF) with portal hypertension.

V. *PKD1*(81407, 81479), *PKD2*(81406, 81479), *GANAB*(81479), *DNAJB11*(81479), *PKHD1*(81408, 81479) sequencing and/or deletion/duplication analysis or multigene panel analysis (81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479) to confirm or establish a diagnosis of polycystic kidney disease is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

[back to top](#)

Comprehensive Kidney Disease Panels

- VI. Genetic testing for kidney disease via a comprehensive kidney disease panel (81401, 81402, 81403, 81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479) may be considered **medically necessary** when **both** of the following criteria are met:
- A. The member has chronic kidney disease with an undetermined cause after undergoing standard-of-care workup studies (examples: history and physical examination, biochemical testing, renal imaging, or renal biopsy)
 - B. The member meets at least **one** of the following:
 1. Onset of chronic kidney disease under 40 years of age
 2. One or more [first- or second-degree relatives](#) with chronic kidney disease
 3. Consanguineous family history
 4. Cystic renal disease
 5. Congenital nephropathy.
- VII. Genetic testing for kidney disease via a comprehensive kidney disease panel (81401, 81402, 81403, 81404, 81405, 81406, 81407, 81408, 81479) is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

[back to top](#)

POLICY STATEMENT

BEFORE

AFTER

APOL1*-Mediated Kidney Disease*Targeted Variant Analysis**

- VIII. Targeted variant analysis for the *APOL1* high-risk genotype (i.e., G1/G1, G1/G2, or G2/G2) (0355U, 81479) may be considered **medically necessary** when:
- A. The member has kidney disease, **AND** has **either** of the following criteria:
 1. The member is of African ancestry
 2. The member has a family member with a confirmed *APOL1* high-risk genotype (i.e., G1/G1, G1/G2, or G2/G2)
- IX. Targeted variant analysis for the *APOL1* high-risk genotype (i.e., G1/G1, G1/G2, or G2/G2) (0355U, 81479) is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

[back to top](#)

Donor-Derived Cell-Free DNA For Kidney Transplant Rejection

- X. The use of peripheral blood measurement of donor-derived cell-free DNA in the management of patients after renal transplantation (81479, 0118U) is considered **investigational** for all indications, including but not limited to:
- A. Detection of acute renal transplant rejection
 - B. Detection of renal transplant graft dysfunction

[back to top](#)

Other Covered Kidney Disorders

The following is a list of conditions that have a known genetic association. Due to their relative rareness, it may be appropriate to cover these genetic tests to establish or confirm a diagnosis.

- XI. Genetic testing to establish or confirm one of the following genetic kidney disorders to guide management may be considered **medically necessary** when the member demonstrates clinical features* consistent with the disorder (the list is not meant to be comprehensive, see XII below):
- A. [Alport Syndrome](#)
 - B. [C3 Glomerulopathy](#)
 - C. Congenital nephrotic syndrome

POLICY STATEMENT	
BEFORE	AFTER
	<p>D. Cystinosis</p> <p>E. Cystinuria</p> <p>F. Fabry Disease</p> <p>G. Genetic (familial) atypical hemolytic-uremic syndrome (aHUS)</p> <p>H. Primary Hyperoxaluria</p> <p>XII. Genetic testing to establish or confirm the diagnosis of all other kidney disorders not specifically discussed within this or another medical policy will be evaluated by the criteria outlined in <i>General Approach to Genetic and Molecular Testing</i> (see policy for coverage criteria).</p> <p>*Clinical features for a specific disorder may be outlined in resources such as GeneReviews, OMIM, National Library of Medicine, Genetics Home Reference, or other scholarly source.</p>