05-86000-11

Original Effective Date: 12/15/02

Reviewed: 08/27/20

Revised: 09/15/20

Subject: Chemoresistance and Chemosensitivity Assays

THIS MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION, CERTIFICATION, EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS, OR A GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT, NOR DOES IT SUBSTITUTE FOR OR CONSTITUTE MEDICAL ADVICE. ALL MEDICAL DECISIONS ARE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN. BENEFITS ARE DETERMINED BY THE GROUP CONTRACT, MEMBER BENEFIT BOOKLET, AND/OR INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBER CERTIFICATE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME SERVICES WERE RENDERED. THIS MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINE APPLIES TO ALL LINES OF BUSINESS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN THE PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS SECTION.

Position Statement	Billing/Coding	Reimbursement	Program Exceptions	Definitions	Related Guidelines
Other	References	Updates			

DESCRIPTION:

In vitro chemoresistance and chemosensitivity assays have been developed to provide information about the characteristics of an individual patient's malignancy to predict potential responsiveness of their cancer to specific drugs. Oncologists may sometimes use these assays to select treatment regimens for a patient. Several assays have been developed that differ concerning the processing of biologic samples and detection methods. However, all involve similar principles and share protocol components including: (1) isolation of cells and establishment in an in vitro medium (sometimes in soft agar); (2) incubation of the cells with various drugs; (3) assessment of cell survival; and (4) interpretation of the result.

A variety of chemosensitivity and chemoresistance assays have been clinically evaluated in human trials. All assays use characteristics of cell physiology to distinguish between viable and nonviable cells to quantify cell kill following exposure to a drug of interest. With few exceptions, drug doses used in the assays vary highly depending on tumor type and drug class, but all assays require drug exposures ranging from several-fold below physiologic relevance to several-fold above physiologic relevance. Although a variety of assays examine chemosensitivity or chemoresistance, only a few are commercially available.

POSITION STATEMENT:

In vitro chemosensitivity assays, including, but not limited to, the Histoculture Drug Response Assay, the fluorescent cytoprint assay (FCA), and the ChemoFX assay are considered **experimental or investigational**. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

In vitro chemoresistance assays, including, but not limited to, Extreme Drug Resistance Assay, are considered **experimental or investigational**. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

BILLING/CODING INFORMATION:

CPT Coding:

81535	Oncology (gynecologic), live tumor cell culture and chemotherapeutic response by DAPI stain and morphology, predictive algorithm reported as a drug response score; first single drug or drug combination **(Investigational)**
81536	Oncology (gynecologic), live tumor cell culture and chemotherapeutic response by DAPI stain and morphology, predictive algorithm reported as a drug response score; first single drug or drug combination, each additional single drug or drug combination (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) **(Investigational)**
0564T	Oncology, chemotherapeutic drug cytotoxicity assay of cancer stem cells (CSCs), from cultured CSCs and primary tumor cells, categorical drug response reported based on percent of cytotoxicity observed, a minimum of 14 drugs or drug combinations (**Investigational**)

Unlisted CPT codes 86849, 87999, 89240 may be used to report other chemoresistance and chemosensitivity assays.

REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:

Refer to section entitled **POSITION STATEMENT**.

PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS:

Federal Employee Program (FEP): Follow FEP guidelines.

State Account Organization (SAO): Follow SAO guidelines.

Medicare Advantage products:

The following National Coverage Determination (NCD) was reviewed on the last guideline reviewed date: Human Tumor Stem Cell Drug Sensitivity Assays (190.7) located at cms.gov.

DEFINITIONS:

No guideline specific definitions apply.

RELATED GUIDELINES:

None applicable.

OTHER:

Note: The use of specific product names is illustrative only. It is not intended to be a recommendation of one product over another, and is not intended to represent a complete listing of all products available.

Examples of in vitro chemosensitivity and in vitro chemoresistance assays:

Adenosine Triphosphate Bioluminescence
Clonogenic Cytotoxic Drug Resistance
CorrectChemo
Cytoprint
Differential Staining Cytotoxicity
EVA/PCD
Fluorometric Microculture Cytotoxicity
Microculture Kinetics (MICK)
Nonclonogenic Clonogenic Cytotoxic Drug Resistance
Tritiated Thymine
Tumor Stem Cell Assay.

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3. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association TEC Assessment "Chemotherapy Sensitivity and Resistance Assays" (10/02), Tab 12.
4. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association TEC Assessment "Chemotherapy Sensitivity and Resistance Assays" (11/00), Tab 11.
5. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association TEC Assessment "Nonclonogenic Cytotoxic Drug Resistance Assay" (10/95), Tab 22.
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COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

This Medical Coverage Guideline (MCG) was approved by the BCBSF Medical Policy & Coverage Committee on 08/27/20.

GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:

12/15/02	Reformat, review & revision of original Medical Coverage Guideline (09/94).
06/15/03	Revised billing/coding information section; deleted CPT codes: 87230, 88-104, 305, 313, 358, and 89050.
06/15/04	Scheduled review, no revisions.
03/15/05	Scheduled review, no change in coverage statement. Revised description section. Format change, reimbursement information section.
03/15/06	Annual review; investigational status maintained.
03/15/07	Scheduled review; no change in coverage statement; references and Internet links updated.
06/15/07	Reformatted guideline.
03/15/08	Annual review: position statement maintained, description section updated, references updated.
03/15/09	Annual review: position statement maintained and references updated.
03/15/10	Annual review: position statement maintained; description section and references updated.
02/15/11	Annual review: position statement maintained and references updated.
09/15/12	Annual review; position statement maintained and references updated.

02/15/13	Revision; position statement, title, description section, and references updated.
08/15/13	Annual review; position statement maintained, program exception and references updates.
06/15/14	Annual review; position statement maintained and references updated.
06/15/15	Annual review; position statement maintained and references updated.
01/01/16	Annual HCPCS/CPT update; codes 81535 and 81536 added.
11/15/16	Revision; description, position statement, and references updated.
10/15/18	Review; investigational status maintained; position statements and references updated.
01/01/20	Annual CPT/HCPCS coding update. Added code 0564T.
09/15/20	Review; position statements maintained and references updated.