Introduction

Uveal melanoma is a rare cancer of the eye that often spreads to other parts of the body. A special type of genetic testing called “gene expression profiling” (GEP) looks at the activity of many genes at once to give a broad picture of cellular function in a tumor. It has been used to help determine the prognosis of a person with uveal melanoma. This policy describes when gene expression profiling may be medically necessary in cases of uveal melanoma.

Note: The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.

Policy Coverage Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Medical Necessity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gene expression profiling, uveal melanoma</td>
<td>Gene expression profiling for uveal melanoma with DecisionDx-UM® is medically necessary for patients with primary, localized uveal melanoma.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Service | Medical Necessity
---|---
Examples of commercial tests include:
- DecisionDx-UM® test (Castle Biosciences Inc., Phoenix, AZ)

### Service | Investigational
---|---
**Gene expression profiling, uveal melanoma** | Gene expression profiling for uveal melanoma that does not meet the above criteria is investigational.

### Coding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81599</td>
<td>Unlisted multianalyte assay with algorithmic analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). HCPCS codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by Centers for Medicare Services (CMS).

### Related Information

N/A

### Evidence Review

### Description

Uveal melanoma is associated with a high rate of metastatic disease, and survival after the development of metastatic disease is poor. Prognosis following treatment of local disease can be assessed using various factors, including clinical and demographic markers, tumor stage,
tumor characteristics, and tumor cytogenetics. Gene expression profiling (GEP) can be used to determine prognosis, and gene expression profile testing is commercially available.

Background

Uveal melanoma

The uveal tract is the middle layer of the wall of the eye, and has 3 main parts: the choroid (a tissue layer filled with blood vessels), ciliary body (muscle tissue that changes the shape of the pupil and the lens), and the iris (the colored part of the eye). Uveal melanoma arises from melanocytes in the stroma of the uveal tract. Approximately 90% of uveal melanomas arise in the choroid, 7% in the ciliary body, and 3% in the iris.¹

Uveal melanoma, although rare, is the most common primary intraocular malignancy in adults. Mean age-adjusted incidence of uveal melanoma in the United States is 6.3 per million people among whites, 0.9 among Hispanics, and 0.24 among blacks.¹ Uveal melanoma has a progressively rising, age-specific, incidence rate that peaks near age 70. Host susceptibility factors associated with the development of this cancer include white race, fair skin, and light eye color.

Treatment

Treatment of primary, localized uveal melanoma can be by surgery or radiotherapy. In general, larger tumors require enucleation surgery and smaller tumors can be treated with radiotherapy, but specific treatment parameters are lacking. The most common treatment of localized uveal melanoma is radiotherapy, which is preferred because it can spare vision in most cases. For smaller lesions, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have shown that patients receiving radiotherapy or enucleation progress to metastatic disease at similar rates after treatment.²,³ Radiotherapy can be delivered by various mechanisms, most commonly brachytherapy and proton beam therapy.¹,² Treatment of primary uveal melanoma improves local control and spares vision. However, the 5-year survival rate (81.6%) has not changed over the last 3 decades, suggesting that life expectancy is independent of successful local eye treatment.⁴

Uveal melanomas disseminate hematogenously, and metastasize primarily to the liver and lungs. Treatment of hepatic metastases is associated with prolonged survival and palliation in some patients. Therapies directed at locoregional treatment of hepatic metastases include surgical and ablative techniques, embolization, and local chemotherapy.
Metastatic Disease

It is unusual for patients with uveal melanoma to have distant metastases at presentation, with less than 1% presenting with metastases when they are treated for their intraocular disease. However, they are at risk for distant metastases, particularly to the liver, for years after presentation. The prospective, longitudinal Collaborative Ocular Melanoma Study (COMS) followed 2320 patients with choroidal melanoma with no melanoma metastasis at baseline who were enrolled in RCTs to evaluate forms of radiotherapy for choroidal melanoma for 5 to 10 years. During follow-up, 739 patients were diagnosed with at least 1 site of metastasis, of which 660 (89%) were liver. Kaplan-Meier estimates of 2-, 5-, and 10-year metastasis rates were 10% (95% confidence interval [CI], 9% to 12%), 25% (95% CI, 23% to 27%), and 34% (95% CI, 32% to 37%), respectively.

Prognosis

Metastatic disease is the leading cause of death in patients with uveal melanoma, and approximately 50% of patients will develop distant metastasis. A number of factors may be used to determine prognosis, but the optimal approach is uncertain. The most important clinical factors that predict metastatic disease are tumor size measured in diameter or in thickness, ciliary body involvement, and transscleral extension. Clinical staging according to the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) recommendations allows risk stratification for metastatic disease. In a retrospective study of 3377 patients with uveal melanoma, in which staging was performed using AJCC classifications, the rate of metastases-free survival at 5 years was 97% for stage I, 89% for stage II, 79% for stage III, 67% for stage IIIA, 50% for stage IIIB, and 25% for stage IIIB.

Genetic Analysis

Genetic analysis of uveal melanoma can provide prognostic information for the risk of developing metastatic disease. In 1996, Prescher et al showed that monosomy of chromosome 3 correlated strongly with metastatic death, with a 5-year survival reduction from 100% to 50%. Subsequent studies reported the initial idea that, based on genetic analysis, there were 2 distinct types of uveal melanomas—those with monosomy chromosome 3 associated with a very poor prognosis and those with disomy 3 and 6p gain associated with a better prognosis. The BAP1
gene has been identified as an important marker of disease type. In 1 study, 89% of tumors with monosomy 3 had a BAP1 mutation, and no tumors without monosomy 3 had a BAP1 mutation.\textsuperscript{12}

Gene expression profiling (GEP) determines the expression of multiple genes in a tumor and has been proposed as an additional method to stratify patients into prognostic risk groups.

**Summary of Evidence**

For individuals who have localized uveal melanoma who receive a GEP test for uveal melanoma (DecisionDx-UM), the evidence includes cross-sectional studies of assay validation and clinical validity. Relevant outcomes are overall survival, disease-specific survival, test accuracy and validity, other test performance measures, functional outcomes, health status measures, and quality of life. One commercially available test identified (DecisionDx-UM) has published data related to its clinical validity, and is the focus of this review. Three studies of clinical validity identified used the GEP score to predict melanoma metastases and melanoma-specific survival. All three reported that GEP classification correlated strongly with metastatic disease and melanoma mortality. Two studies compared GEP classification with other prognostic markers, and GEP class had the strongest association among the markers tested. GEP classification appears to be a strong predictor of metastatic disease and melanoma death. There are no studies directly showing clinical utility. Absent direct evidence, a chain of evidence can be constructed to determine whether using the results of GEP testing for management decisions improves the net health outcome of patients with uveal melanoma. Aaberg et al (2014) have shown an association between GEP classification and treatment, reporting that patients classified as low-risk were managed with less frequent and intensive surveillance and were not referred for adjuvant therapy. It is uncertain whether stratification of patients into higher risk categories has the potential to improve outcomes by allowing patients to receive adjuvant therapies through detection of metastases earlier. However, classification into the low-risk group would support a reduction in the burden of surveillance without apparent harm. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

**Ongoing and Unpublished Clinical Trials**

Some currently unpublished trials that might influence this review are listed in Table 1.
Table 1. Summary of Key Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCT No.</th>
<th>Trial Name</th>
<th>Planned Enrollment</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCT02376920</td>
<td>5 Year Registry Study to Track Clinical Application of DecisionDx-UM Assay Results and Associated Patient Outcomes (CLEAR)</td>
<td>2800</td>
<td>Oct 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCT: national clinical trial.

Practice Guidelines and Position Statements

National Comprehensive Cancer Network

In its guidelines on melanoma (v.1.2018), the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) states: “Mucosal and uveal melanomas differ significantly from cutaneous melanoma in presentation, genetic profile, staging, response to treatment, and patterns of progression. Ideally, mucosal and uveal melanoma should be treated as diseases distinct from cutaneous melanoma, with care tailored to the individual.”

Melanoma Focus

Melanoma Focus, a British medical nonprofit that focuses on melanoma research, published guidelines on uveal melanoma in 2015. These guidelines, which were created using a process accredited by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, contained the following statements on prognosis and surveillance.

3.5.1 Prognostic factors/tools

1. Prognostic factors of uveal melanoma are multi-factorial and include clinical, morphological and genetic features. The following features should be recorded:
   
   o Age
   
   o Gender
   
   o Tumour location
- Tumour height
- Tumour Largest [sic] basal diameter
- Ciliary body involvement
- Extraocular melanoma growth (macroscopic)

2. The following features should be recorded if tissue is available:
   - Cell type (modified Callender system)
   - Mitotic count (number/40 high power fields in H&E [hematoxylin and eosin] stained sections)
   - Presence of extravascular matrix patterns (particularly closed connective tissue loops; enhanced with Periodic acid Schiff staining). Grade A
   - Presence of extraocular melanoma growth (size, presence or absence of encapsulation). [GRADE A]

### 3.5.2 Prognostic biopsy

1. There should be a fully informed discussion with all patients, explaining the role of biopsy including the benefits and risks. The discussion should include:
   - Risk of having the biopsy
   - Limitations of the investigation
   - Benefits for future treatments (including possible recruitment to trials)
   - Impact on quality of life
   - Recruitment to trials
   - Follow-up [GPP]

2. Use of the current (ie, 7th) Edition of the TNM staging system for prognostication is highly recommended. Grade A

3. Use of multifactorial prognostication models incorporating clinical, histological, immunohistochemical and genetic tumour features - should be considered. Grade D
3.6 Surveillance

1. Prognostication and surveillance should be led by a specialist multidisciplinary team that incorporates expertise from ophthalmology, radiology, oncology, cancer nursing and hepatic services. [GPP]

2. Prognostication and risk prediction should be based on the best available evidence, taking into account clinical, morphological and genetic cancer features. [GPP]

3. All patients, irrespective of risk, should have a holistic assessment to discuss the risk, benefits and consequences of entry into a surveillance programme. The discussion should consider risk of false positives, the emotional impact of screening as well as the frequency and duration of screening. An individual plan should be developed. [GPP]

4. Patients judged at high-risk of developing metastases should have 6-monthly life-long surveillance incorporating a clinical review, nurse specialist support and liver specific imaging by a non-ionising modality. [GPP] ...

5. Liver function tests alone are an inadequate tool for surveillance. Grade C”

Note: Melanoma Focus defined GPP as: recommended best practice based on the clinical experience of the guideline development group.

Medicare National Coverage

There is no national coverage determination (NCD). In the absence of an NCD, coverage decisions are left to the discretion of local Medicare carriers.

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. The DecisionDx-UM® test (Castle Biosciences, Phoenix, AZ) is available under the auspices of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments. Laboratories that offer laboratory-developed tests must be licensed by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments for high-complexity testing. To date, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has chosen not to require any regulatory review of this test.
References


**History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/11/14</td>
<td>New Policy. Policy created with a literature review through March 11, 2014. Gene expression profiling for uveal melanoma is considered investigational.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/14/15</td>
<td>Annual Review. Policy updated with literature review through April 28, 2015; no references added. Policy statement unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/01/16</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved September 13, 2016. Policy updated with literature review through April 29, 2016; references 2-4, 6-9, 11, 14, and 16-18 added. Policy statement unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/17</td>
<td>Annual review, approved April 11, 2017. Policy updated with literature review through February 2, 2017; references 5-7, 22, and 24 added. Policy statement changed from investigational to medically necessary for patients with primary, localized uveal melanoma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/22/17</td>
<td>Policy moved to new format; no change to policy statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/18</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved April 3, 2018. Policy updated with literature review through December 2017; no references added. Policy statement unchanged.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer:** This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. The Company adopts policies after careful review of published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, the Company reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate. Member contracts differ in their benefits. Always consult the member benefit booklet or contact a member service representative to determine coverage for a specific medical service or supply. CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). ©2018 Premera All Rights Reserved.
**Scope:** Medical policies are systematically developed guidelines that serve as a resource for Company staff when determining coverage for specific medical procedures, drugs or devices. Coverage for medical services is subject to the limits and conditions of the member benefit plan. Members and their providers should consult the member benefit booklet or contact a customer service representative to determine whether there are any benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. This medical policy does not apply to Medicare Advantage.
Discrimination Is Against the Law

Premera Blue Cross complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Premera does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

Premera:
- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator.

If you believe that Premera has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance:
- Civil Rights Coordinator - Complaints and Appeals
  PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
  Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592, TTY 800-842-5357
  Email AppealsDepartmentinquines@Premera.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.


Getting Help in Other Languages

This Notice has Important Information. This notice may have important information about your application or coverage through Premera Blue Cross. There may be key dates in this notice. You may need to take action by certain deadlines to keep your health coverage or help with costs. You have the right to get this information and help in your language at no cost. Call 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Arabic (Arabic):
يحيى هذا الإشعار معلومات هامة. قد يحيى هذا الإشعار معلومات مهمة بخصوص طبلك أو أي شخص آخر يمكن أن تكون هناك تأثير محتمل من Premera Blue Cross في إلحاح السوق، وقد يكون إلحاحاً لإنجاح أو تأثير معين للطبيب أو المصنف في ذلك الكشف. يحوي ذلك الإشعار على هذه المعلومات والمساعدة في ذلك الكشف أن يحصل على هذه المعلومات والمساعدة في ذلك الكشف في 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357)

中文 (Chinese):
本通知有重要的訊息。本通知可能有關於您透過 Premera Blue Cross 提交的申請或保險的重要訊息。本通知可能有重要的日期。您可能需要在截止日期之前採取行動，以保留您的健康保險或費用補貼。您有權利免費以您的母語得到本訊息和幫助。請撥電話 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357)

Oromo (Cushite):

Français (French):

Kreyòl ayisyen (Creole):

Deutsche (German):

Hmong (Hmong):

Ilokano (Ilocano): Daytoy a Pakdaak ket naglaon iti Napatge nga Impormasion. Daytoy a pakdaak mabalini nga adda ket naglaon iti napatge nga impormasion maipanggepi iti aplikasyonwo nga coverage babaen iti Premera Blue Cross. Daytoy ket mabalini dagiti importante a pelsa iti daytoy a pakdaak. Mabalini nga adda rumbeng nga aramidenyo nga addag sabbay dagiti particular a na ntudting nga adda aldaw tapno mapagtalainidayo ti coverage ti salun-aty weno tulong kadagit gastos. Adda karbenganayo a mangala iti daytoy nga impormasion ken tulong ti bukodyo a pagasasao nga awan ti bayadanyo. Tumawag ti numero nga 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Italiano (Italian):
この通知には重要な情報が含まれています。この通知には、Premera Blue Crossの申請または補償に関する重要な情報が含まれている場合があります。この通知に記載されている可能性がある重要な日付をご確認ください。


Русский (Russian): Настоящее уведомление содержит важную информацию. Это уведомление может содержать важную информацию о вашем заявлении или страховом покрытии через Premera Blue Cross. В настоящем уведомлении могут быть указаны ключевые даты. Вам, возможно, потребуется принять меры к определенным предельным срокам для сохранения страхового покрытия или помощи с расходами. Вы имеете право на бесплатное получение этой информации и помощь на вашем языке. Звоните по телефону 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Español (Spanish): Este Aviso contiene información importante. Es posible que este aviso contenga información importante acerca de su solicitud o cobertura a través de Premera Blue Cross. Es posible que haya fechas claves en este aviso. Es posible que deba tomar alguna medida antes de determinadas fechas para mantener su cobertura médica o ayuda con los costos. Usted tiene derecho a recibir esta información y ayuda en su idioma sin costo alguno. Llame al 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).


ไทย (Thai): ประกาศนี้มีข้อมูลสำคัญต่อคุณว่าคุณมีสิทธิ์ที่จะขอความช่วยเหลือสุขภาพของคุณผ่าน Premera Blue Cross และคุณมีสิทธิ์ในการรับการช่วยเหลือที่คุณอาจต้องการในกรณีที่คุณมีสิทธิ์ในคุณภาพที่จะรับการช่วยเหลือสุขภาพของคุณของกรณีที่มีสิทธิ์ในการรับการช่วยเหลือสุขภาพของคุณ โปรดโทรมาที่ 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Український (Ukrainian): Це повідомлення містить важливу інформацію. Це повідомлення може містити важливу інформацію про Ваше звернення щодо страхувального покриття через Premera Blue Cross. Зверніть увагу на ключові дати, які можуть бути вказані у цьому повідомленні. Існує можливість того, що Вам треба буде здійснити певні кроки у конкретні кінцеві строки для того, щоб зберегти Ваше медичне страхування або отримати фінансову допомогу. У Вас є право на отримання цієї інформації та допомоги безкоштовно на Вашій рідній мові. Дозвоніться за номером телефону 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).