HEALTH PLAN POLICY

Policy Title: Genetic Expression Profiling – Cancers of Unknown Primary  
Policy Number: MUM52  
Revision: New

Department: Medical Management  
Sub-Department: Utilization Management

Applies to Product Lines:  
☐ Medicaid  
☐ Children’s Health Insurance Plan  
☒ Health Insurance Exchange  
☒ Medicare  
☒ USFHP  
☒ Commercial Insured  
☐ Non Insured Business

Origination/Effective Date: 10/09/2019

Reviewed Date(s):  
Revision Date(s):

SCOPE:

This policy addresses the use of genetic expression profiling to identify malignancies of unknown primary origin.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)
- Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)
- Genetic Expression Profiling (GEP)
- Immunohistochemistry (IHC)
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)

POLICY:

GEP is considered investigational and not medically necessary.

RATIONALE:

The NCCN CPG for CUP typically involve aggressive malignancies with short median survivals of 6 months. As a group, CUP represents only a small percentage (5%) of cancers. Although diagnostic benefit occurs 30% of the time, no clinical benefit accrues with GEP. Alternate testing modalities such as IHC are of similar diagnostic value.

In conclusion, this test is considered a Category 3 recommendation that involves only major disagreement among medical professionals without consensus.

REFERENCES:

- NCCN CPG 2019 – Primary Occult Tumors
- AHRQ 2013- Meleth – Tech Assessment of Genetic Tests
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RELATED DOCUMENTS:
None

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Chief Executive Officer Health Plans

Date

David Engleking, M.D.
Medical Director

Date

REVISION HISTORY:

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<td>New</td>
<td>10/09/2019</td>
<td>Initial release.</td>
<td>Executive Leadership</td>
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