



Policy Number: PA.212.MPC  
Last Review Date: 05/27/2021  
Effective Date: 08/01/2021

## PA.212.MPC – Advise Connective Tissue Disorder

*Maryland Physicians Care considers Advise Connective Tissue Disorder (CTD) for the testing of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), Graves Disease, Hashimoto Disease or any other application to be **experimental and investigational**.*

Maryland Physicians Care does not provide coverage for experimental or investigational services and procedures.

### Background

The Advise CTD test is an advanced autoimmune rheumatic disease test which can help physicians assess patients with potential SLE. The Advise CTD may benefit the assessment of patients with antinuclear antibody (ANA) referrals, patients with symptoms of connective tissue disease, patients with overlapping symptoms, physician observation of undifferentiated connective tissue disease, and ANA positive patients with fibromyalgia.

Advise CTD uses nuclear antigen biomarkers to distinguish specific connective tissue disorders. Antinuclear antibodies target “normal” proteins within the nucleus of a cell. The presence of large amount of autoantibodies or ANAs can indicate the presence of an autoimmune disease, such as lupus, mixed CTD, scleroderma, and juvenile arthritis. According to Exogen Diagnostics, although some components of Advise tests are FDA approved devices, the integrative tests methods have not been cleared or approved by the FDA.

### CPT Codes Not Covered for Indications Above:

Code	Description
83520	Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious agent antigen
86146	Beta 2 Glycoprotein I antibody, each
86147	Cardiolipin (phospholipid) antibody, each Ig class
86148	Qualitative or Semiquantitative Immunoassays

### References

## PA.212.MPC - Advise CTD Non Coverage

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1. American College of Rheumatology (ACR). 1997 Update of the 1982 American College of Rheumatology Revised Criteria for Classification of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. n.d.;  
<https://www.rheumatology.org/Portals/0/Files/1997%20Update%20of%201982%20Revised.pdf>.
2. Exagen Diagnostics. Advise CTD: The Advanced Rheumatology Test for The Differential Diagnosis of SLE, 2019. <https://www.exagen.com/tests/ctd/>
3. Hayes GTE Report. Advise CTD (Exagen Diagnostics). Published Date: 10/27/2016.
4. Mossell J, Goldman JA, Barken D, Alexander RV. The Advise Lupus Test and Cell-bound Complement Activation Products Aid the Diagnosis of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Open Rheumatol J. 2016;10:71–80. Published 2016 Oct 31. doi:10.2174/1874312901610010071.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5101629/>
5. Wallace DJ, Silverman SL, Conklin J, et al. Systemic lupus erythematosus and primary fibromyalgia can be distinguished by testing for cell-bound complement activation products. Lupus Sci Med. 2016;3(1):e000127.PMID 26870391.  
<https://www.exagen.com/wp-content/uploads/Wallace-et-al.-LSM.-2016.-Systemic-lupus-erythematosus-and-primary-fibromyalgia-can-be.pdf>

### Archived Referenes:

1. Hayes GTE Report. Advise MTX (Exagen Diagnostics) for Monitoring Treatment with Methotrexate. Published Date: 08/10/2017. Archived: 09/10/2019.

### Disclaimer:

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