



Policy Number: MP.128.MPC
Last Review Date: 05/19/2022
Effective Date: 06/01/2022

MP.128.MPC - Thyroid Nodule Molecular Testing

Maryland Physicians Care considers the following indications for **molecular testing of thyroid** Fine-Needle Aspiration (FNA) samples are based on the *Bethesda Reporting System of Thyroid Cytology*. Molecular testing of thyroid FNA samples is indicated for those members who meet both of the following criteria:

1. Member has been diagnosed with a thyroid nodule
2. Cytological diagnosis of the thyroid FNA sample must be classified as indeterminate under any one of the following categories:
 - a. AUS/FLUS
 - b. FN/SFN
 - c. SMC

Limitations

Molecular testing of thyroid FNA samples is not generally indicated and/or covered when FNA cytology diagnosis is benign or malignant. Exceptions to this may be made on a case by case basis by requesting prior authorization and documenting medical necessity.

Background

The American Cancer Society estimates that for thyroid cancer in the United States for 2015 there will be about 62,450 new cases of thyroid cancer and 1,950 deaths from thyroid cancer. A thyroid ultrasound is used to detect small thyroid nodules, discrete masses present in the thyroid gland. Fine-needle aspiration (FNA) is used to evaluate the nodules to exam for any benign lesions or malignant tumors.

The National Cancer Institute provides an overview on thyroid cancer and its four types: papillary, follicular, medullary, and anaplastic thyroid cancer. Papillary thyroid cancer is the most common type of thyroid cancer. Certain genetic conditions such as familial medullary thyroid cancer, multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2A syndrome and multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2B syndrome are identified risks known to increase the risk of thyroid cancer.

Codes:

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes
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Code	Description
CPT Codes	
81210	BRAF
81275	KRAS (Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog) (eg, carcinoma) gene analysis; variants in exon 2 (eg, codons 12 and 13)
81276	KRAS (Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog) (eg, carcinoma) gene analysis; additional variant(s) (eg, codon 61, codon 146)
81401	PAX/PPARG
81403	HRAS exon 2; KRAS exon 3, codon 61
81404	NRAS exon 1 & 2; RET common variants
81479	Unlisted molecular pathology procedure (PIK3CA, Guanine Nuc-binding Pro, TSHR, RET/PTC 1 Translocation, RET/PTC 3 Translocation, PTEN gene known fam var)
ICD-10 codes covered if selection criteria are met:	
C73	Malignant neoplasm of thyroid gland
D44.0	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of thyroid gland
E01.2	Iodine-deficiency related (endemic) goiter, unspecified
E04.0-E04.9	Other nontoxic goiter
R22.0	Localized swelling, mass and lump, head
R22.1	Localized swelling, mass and lump, neck

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Disclaimer:

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