



Policy Number: PA.239.MPC
Last Review Date: 11/17/2022
Effective Date: 12/01/2022

PA.239.MPC – Fecal Calprotectin Testing

Maryland Physicians Care considers **Fecal Calprotectin Testing** medically necessary for determining the diagnosis or management of the following:

1. Crohn's Disease
2. Ulcerative Colitis

These conditions are characterized by uncontrolled inflammatory response at the mucosal level causing tissue damage and are typically diagnosed by a physical examination, small bowel x-rays, CT/MRI, resonance enterography, capsule endoscopy, enteroscopy, colonoscopy and/or biopsy.

Limitations/Exclusions

Fecal measurement of calprotectin is unproven and not medically necessary for the diagnosis or management of any other condition.

Background

Due to similar features, it can be difficult to distinguish between inflammatory bowel diseases like Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis and Irritable Bowel Syndrome. It has been determined that Fecal Calprotectin Testing, which is a non-invasive stool test used to detect inflammation in the intestines, can help to distinguish between these diseases and can aid in predicting a relapse of Crohn's Disease or Ulcerative Colitis.

When Calprotectin is present in elevated levels in the stool (greater than 120.1 mcg/g), it more than likely indicates Crohn Disease or Ulcerative Colitis; whereas if the level is low or normal (less than or equal to 50 mcg/g) it is more indicative of irritable bowel syndrome.

Calprotectin is a calcium-binding protein produced primarily by neutrophils. Fecal Calprotectin Testing employs a quantitative enzyme immunoassay methodology to detect calprotectin in a fecal sample. Testing provides a non-invasive alternative to ileocolonoscopy to monitor disease activity in Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis. Growing evidence suggests mucosal healing is associated with better patient outcomes and is a cost-effective alternative to ileocolonoscopy, which is invasive, expensive and carries a risk of complications.

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CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes	
Code	Description
83933	Calprotectin, fecal

References

1. GI Society, Canadian Society of Intestinal Research: Fecal Calprotectin Test <https://badgut.org/information-centre/a-z-digestive-topics/fecal-calprotectin-test/>
2. Mayo Clinic Laboratories: Test ID:CALPR Calprotectin, Feces <https://www.mayocliniclabs.com/test-catalog/Clinical+and+Interpretive/63016>
3. The Use of Fecal Calprotectin in Inflammatory Bowel Disease, [Gastroenterol Hepatol \(N Y\)](#). 2017 Jan; 13(1): 53–56. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5390326/>

Archived References

1. Hayes Knowledge Center. Fecal Calprotectin for Differentiation of Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Evidence Analysis Research Brief: October 31, 2018. Archived: November 30, 2019. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/hss.fecalibs4570>
2. Hayes Knowledge Center. Fecal Calprotectin Assay for Monitoring Disease Activity. Molecular Test Assessment: July 7, 2017. Annual Review: May 27, 2021. Archived: August 7, 2022. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/dir.fecal2715>
3. Hayes Knowledge Center. Fecal Calprotectin Assay for Monitoring Postoperative Recurrence of Crohn Disease. Molecular Test Assessment: June 30, 2017. Annual Review: May 27, 2021. Archived: July 30, 2022. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/dir.fecalcrohns4039>

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