



Policy Number: EVH_MP_2525.MPC

Last Review Date: 05/21/2026

Effective Date: 06/01/2026

EVH_MP_2525.MPC Genetic Testing – Lung Cancer

Maryland Physicians Care considers **Genetic Testing as part of treatment guidance of Lung Cancer** medically necessary for the following indications:

Lung cancer focused molecular profiling panels (0022U, 81457) are considered medically necessary when:

- The member has a diagnosis of ⁽¹⁾:
 - Advanced (stage IIIb or higher) or metastatic lung adenocarcinoma, **OR**
 - Advanced (stage IIIb or higher) or metastatic large cell lung carcinoma, **OR**
 - Advanced (stage IIIb or higher) or metastatic squamous cell lung carcinoma, **OR**
 - Advanced (stage IIIb or higher) or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) not otherwise specified (NOS), **AND**
- The member is seeking further cancer treatment (e.g., therapeutic chemotherapy)
- Repeat lung cancer-focused molecular profiling panels (0022U, 81457) are considered medically necessary when the member has progression on targeted therapy for non-small cell lung cancer

Lung cancer-focused molecular profiling panels (0022U, 81457) are considered investigational for all other indications.

NOTE: Appropriate panel codes should be used if a panel is performed.

Lung cancer focused panel tests via circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) (0179U, 0388U, 81210, 81235, 81275, 81462, 81479) are considered medically necessary when:

- The member has a diagnosis or progression of **ANY** of the following ⁽¹⁾:
 - Advanced or metastatic lung adenocarcinoma
 - Advanced or metastatic large cell lung carcinoma
 - Advanced or metastatic squamous cell lung carcinoma
 - Advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) not otherwise specified (NOS)

Lung cancer focused panel tests via circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) (0179U, 0388U, 81210, 81235, 81275, 81462, 81479) are considered investigational for all other indications.

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EGFR, ALK, ROS1, and BRAF tests must be performed for all non-small cell lung cancer patients, followed by NTRK, MET, RET, HER2, and KRAS tests when the results of EGFR, ALK, ROS1, and BRAF tests are negative or as part of broad testing panels^(2,3)

Testing methods and Treatment Therapy for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients

(1–4)

Gene	Alteration	Testing Methodologies	Approved Commercial Test	Approved drugs
EGFR*	Mutation (Ex21 L858R, Ex19 del, Ex18, Ex20)	RT-PCR, NGS, PCR	PANAMutyper R EGFR, cobas® EGFR Mutation Test v2, GenesWell ddEGFR Mutation Test, Oncomine Dx Target Test, theascreen® EGFR RGQ PCR	Afatinib, Erlotinib, Dacomitinib, Gefitinib, Osimertinib, Osimertinib/Pemetrexed (nonsquamous), Erlotinib + Ramucirumab, Erlotinib + bevacizumab (nonsquamous), Lazertinib + Amivantamab-vmiw, Carboplatin/Pemetrexed + Amivantamab-vmjw (nonsquamous)
ALK	Fusion, Rearrangement	IHC, FISH, NGS	Vysis ALK Break Apart FISH, ALK D5F3 CDx	Alectinib, Brigatinib, Ceritinib, Crizotinib, Ensartinib, Lorlatinib
ROS1	Fusion, Rearrangement	IHC screening, FISH, RT-PCR, NGS	AmoyDx ROS1 Gene Fusions Detection Kit, ROS1 SP384 Assay, Oncomine Dx Target Test	Crizotinib, Entrectinib, Repotrectinib
BRAF	V600E Mutation	RT-PCR, NGS	PNAClamp BRAF Mutation Detection kit, Oncomine Dx Target Test	Dabrafenib/Trametinib, Encorafenib/ Binimetinib, Dabrafenib, Vemurafenib

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Gene	Alteration	Testing Methodologies	Approved Commercial Test	Approved drugs
NTRK	Fusion	IHC screening, NGS	pan-TRK EPR17341 Assay	Larotrectinib, Entrectinib, Repotrectinib
MET	Exon 14 skipping mutation, Mutation Amplification	NGS	N/A	Crizotinib, Capmatinib, Tepotinib
RET	Fusion, Mutation, Rearrangement	NGS	N/A	Selpercatinib, Pralsetinib
HER2	Mutation (Ex20ins), Amplification	NGS	N/A	Zongertinib, Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki
TMB	Mutation	NGS	FoundationOne CDx	Pembrolizumab
PD-L1	Over-expression	IHC	PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx, PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx, VENTANA PD-L1 (SP263) Assay, VENTANA® PD-L1 (SP142) Assay	Pembrolizumab, Atezolizumab, Cemiplimab-rwlc, and other drug combinations depending on cell types
KRAS	Mutation	PCR, RT-PCR, NGS	N/A	Sotorasib, Adagrasib
STK11	Mutation	NGS	N/A	N/A
KEAP1	Mutation	NGS	N/A	N/A
MSI	Pattern of hypermutation	IHC, PCR, NGS	N/A	N/A

*In lung carcinoma patients who harbor sensitizing EGFR mutations and have progressed after treatment with an EGFR-targeted tyrosine kinase inhibitor, physicians

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must use EGFR T790M mutational testing when selecting patients for third-generation EGFR-targeted therapy ⁽³⁾

EGFR: Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor

RT-PCR: Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction

NGS: Next Generation Sequencing

ALK: Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase

FISH: Fluorescent In Situ Hybridization

ROS1: Ros proto-oncogene 1 receptor tyrosine kinase

BRAF: serine/threonine-protein kinase B-Raf

NTRK: Neurotrophic Tyrosine Receptor Kinase

MET: Mesenchymal Epithelial transition

RET: Rearranged during Transfection

HER2: Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2

PD-L1: Programmed Death Ligand-1

TMB: Tumor Mutation Burden

STK11: Serine/Threonine Kinase 11

KEAP1 Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1

MSI: Microsatellite Instability-high

Note: All tests must be performed by laboratories/technologists with demonstrated proficiency in that specific technology.

Background

Definitions

Advanced cancer: Cancer that is unlikely to be cured or controlled with treatment. The cancer may have spread from where it first started to nearby tissue, lymph nodes, or distant parts of the body. Treatment may be given to help shrink the tumor, slow the growth of cancer cells, or relieve symptoms

Circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA): Fragmented, tumor-derived DNA circulating in the bloodstream that is not being carried in a cell. ctDNA derives either directly from the tumor or from circulating tumor cells.

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Codes

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes	
Code	Description
CPT Codes	
0022U	Targeted genomic sequence analysis panel, non-small cell lung neoplasia, DNA and RNA analysis, 23 genes, interrogation for sequence variants and rearrangements, reported as presence or absence of variants and associated therapy(ies) to consider
0179U	Oncology (non-small cell lung cancer), cell-free DNA, targeted sequence analysis of 23 genes (single nucleotide variations, insertions and deletions, fusions without prior knowledge of partner/breakpoint, copy number variations), with report of significant mutation(s)
81210	BRAF (B-Raf proto-oncogene, serine/threonine kinase) (eg, colon cancer, melanoma), gene analysis, V600 variant(s)
81235	EGFR (epidermal growth factor receptor) (eg, non-small cell lung cancer) gene analysis, common variants (eg, exon 19 LREA deletion, L858R, T790M, G719A, G719S, L861Q)
81275	KRAS (Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog) (eg, carcinoma) gene analysis; variants in exon 2 (eg, codons 12 and 13)
81479	Unlisted molecular pathology procedure
88271	Molecular cytogenetics; DNA probe, each (e.g., FISH)
88274	Molecular cytogenetics; interphase in situ hybridization, analyze 25-99 cells
88291	Cytogenetic and molecular cytogenetics, interpretation and report
88367	Morphometric analysis; in situ hybridization (quantitative or semi-quantitative), using computer-assisted technology, per specimen; initial single probe stain procedure
ICD-10 codes covered if selection criteria are met:	
C34.00-C34.92	Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung

Policy History

Date	Summary
May 21, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This guideline replaces MP.115.MPC Genetic Testing – Lung Cancer

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Date	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Review - Replaced patient with member throughout; minor punctuation updates to Indications; updated Gene Table; updated description of procedure codes 81235 and 88367; added Policy History Log; updated References

References

1. Referenced with permission from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Version 5.2026. © National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. 2026. All rights reserved. To view the most recent and complete version of the guideline, go online to NCCN.org.
2. Chang S, Shim HS, Kim TJ, et al. Molecular biomarker testing for non-small cell lung cancer: Consensus statement of the Korean Cardiopulmonary Pathology Study Group. *J Pathol Transl Med.* 2021;55(3):181-191. doi:10.4132/JPTM.2021.03.23
3. Lindeman NI, Cagle PT, Aisner DL, et al. Updated Molecular Testing Guideline for the Selection of Lung Cancer Patients for Treatment With Targeted Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors: Guideline From the College of American Pathologists, the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, and the Association for Molecular Pathology. *Journal of Thoracic Oncology.* 2018;13(3):323-358. doi:10.1016/j.jtho.2017.12.001
4. Isla D, Lozano MD, Paz-Ares L, et al. New update to the guidelines on testing predictive biomarkers in non-small-cell lung cancer: a National Consensus of the Spanish Society of Pathology and the Spanish Society of Medical Oncology. *Clinical and Translational Oncology.* 2023;25(5):1252-1267. doi:10.1007/s12094-022-03046-9

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