

Blue Cross[®] and Blue Shield[®] of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) | Healthy Blue + MedicareSM
(HMO-POS D-SNP)

Reimbursement Policy	
Subject: Genetic Tests: Once per Lifetime	
Policy Number: G-23002	Policy Section: Laboratory
Last Approval Date: 06/14/2023	Effective Date: 10/01/2025

**** Visit our provider website for the most current version of the reimbursement policies. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/blue-medicare-providers/healthy-blue-medicare>.

Disclaimer

These reimbursement policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if the service is covered by a member's benefit plan. The determination that a service, procedure, or item is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must also meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis, as well as to the member's state of residence.

Ensure that you use proper billing and submission guidelines, including industry-standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with Current Procedure Terminology[®] (CPT) codes, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes and/or revenue codes. These codes denote the services and/or procedures performed and when billed, must be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our reimbursement policies apply to both participating and non-participating professional providers and facilities.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, we may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.
- Adjust the reimbursement to reflect the appropriate services and/or procedures performed.

<https://bluecrossnc.com/providers/networks-programs/blue-medicare/healthy-blue-medicare>

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health, DBA Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, is an HMO-POS D-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a NC State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC). Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health depends upon contract renewal.

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These reimbursement policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts and/or requirements. We strive to minimize delays in policy implementation. If there is a delay, we reserve the right to recoup and/or recover claims payment to the effective date, in accordance with the policy. We reserve the right to review and revise these policies when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to the website.

Policy

Blue Cross NC allows reimbursement for specific genetic tests once in a member's lifetime, unless provider, state, or federal contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

During the member's lifetime, the germline genotype will not change. However, the interpretation of the gene sequence may change due to recategorization of variants, or other factors. Repeat sequencing is not required for future interpretation of germline genotype, or re-analysis of previously sequenced data.

The genetic procedures indicated in the below Related Coding section are limited to once per lifetime sequencing. Reinterpretation of the original results are not separately reimbursable.

Related Coding	
Code	Description
Genetic Sequencing Once per Lifetime Procedures	Genetic Sequencing Once per Lifetime Procedures

Policy History	
06/14/2023	Initial approval 06/14/2023 and effective 10/01/2025

References and Research Materials
<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMS• State contract• National Institute of Health• Optum EncoderPro 2023

Definitions	
Germline	Cells arising from the germ cells containing genetic code that may be passed down to future generations. May also be referred to as hereditary or constitutional.
Genotype	The genotype is the individual organism's unique set of all the genes.

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Sequencing	Determining the identity of each nucleotide (one of the four chemical building blocks - called <i>bases</i> - that make up the DNA molecule) to identify the kind of genetic information that is carried in a particular DNA segment.
Variant	Nucleotide deviation from a reference sequence of DNA. For clinical testing, variants are classified into several categories (Pathogenic; Likely pathogenic; Variant of uncertain (or unknown) significance (VUS); Likely benign; Benign). As evidence on variants evolves, previous classifications may later require modification. Each laboratory decides what risk assessment to assign to each disease-causing variant within the gene; this is generally done according to an accepted classification scheme based on the likely clinical significance of each variant. Patient information (for example, laboratory results, personal and family history of disease) may also inform how variants are classified.
General Reimbursement Policy Definitions	

Related Policies and Materials
Whole Genome Sequencing, Whole Exome Sequencing, Gene Panels, and Molecular Profiling (GENE.00052)
Genetic Testing for Inherited Diseases (CG-GENE-13)
Gene Mutation Testing for Cancer Susceptibility and Management (CG-GENE-14)
Genetic Testing for Lynch Syndrome, Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP), Attenuated FAP and MYH-associated (CG-GENE-15)
BRCA Genetic Testing (CG-GENE-16)

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