ANALYSIS OF HUMAN DNA IN STOOL SAMPLES AS A TECHNIQUE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

Non-Discrimination Statement and Multi-Language Interpreter Services information are located at the end of this document.

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Medical Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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ANALYSIS OF HUMAN DNA IN STOOL SAMPLES AS A TECHNIQUE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING (cont.)

Description:

Detection of DNA abnormalities associated with colorectal cancer in stool samples has been proposed as a screening test for colorectal cancer. This technique is another potential alternative to currently available screening approaches such as fecal occult blood testing, fecal immunochemical testing (FIT) or colonoscopy. The currently available stool DNA test combines FIT and DNA analysis (FIT-DNA).

Several cellular genetic alterations have been associated with colorectal cancer. Tumor-associated gene mutations and epigenetic markers can be detected in exfoliated intestinal cells in stool specimens. Since cancer cells are spread into the stool, tests have been developed that detect these genetic alterations in DNA from shed colorectal cancer cells isolated from stool samples.

Cologuard™ was FDA approved August, 2014 as an automated fecal DNA testing product. Cologuard is intended for the qualitative detection of colorectal neoplasia associated DNA markers and of occult hemoglobin in human stool. A positive result may indicate the presence of colorectal cancer or advanced adenoma and should be followed by diagnostic colonoscopy. Cologuard is indicated to screen adults of either sex, 50 years or older, who are at average risk for colorectal cancer. Cologuard is not a replacement for diagnostic colonoscopy or surveillance colonoscopy in high-risk individuals.

Other stool DNA tests have been evaluated in studies and previously marketed including the PreGen-Plus™ and ColoSure™. The PreGen-Plus has not been cleared by the FDA and ColoSure was offered as a laboratory-developed test and is not subject to FDA regulation.

Screening:

Genetic screening is the testing of an individual with no symptoms for a specific inherited disorder to determine if the individual carries an abnormal gene. Screening can be used to predict risk or potential risk for the individual or their offspring.
ANALYSIS OF HUMAN DNA IN STOOL SAMPLES AS A TECHNIQUE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING (cont.)

Criteria:

- DNA analysis of stool samples is considered *medically necessary* as a screening technique for colorectal cancer in individuals at average risk of colorectal cancer.

- DNA analysis of stool samples for all other indications not previously listed or if above criteria not met is considered *experimental or investigational* based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

These tests include, *but are not limited to*:

- ColoSure (Vimentin Gene Methylation Assay)
- PreGen-Plus

Resources:

Literature reviewed 12/12/17. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.

The BCBS Association Medical Policy Reference Manual (MPRM) policy is included in our guideline review. References cited in the MPRM policy are not duplicated on this guideline.

Resources prior to 03/18/14 may be requested from the BCBSAZ Medical Policy and Technology Research Department.


2. American Cancer Society. Colorectal Cancer Prevention and Early Detection. 06/24/16.

ANALYSIS OF HUMAN DNA IN STOOL SAMPLES AS A TECHNIQUE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


11. UpToDate. Screening for Colorectal Cancer: Strategies in Patients at Average Risk. Last updated 08/01/16.
### ANALYSIS OF HUMAN DNA IN STOOL SAMPLES AS A TECHNIQUE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING (cont.)

**Non-Discrimination Statement:**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. BCBSAZ provides appropriate free aids and services, such as qualified interpreters and written information in other formats, to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. BCBSAZ also provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, call (602) 864-4884 for Spanish and (877) 475-4799 for all other languages and other aids and services.

If you believe that BCBSAZ has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance with: BCBSAZ's Civil Rights Coordinator, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, P.O. Box 13466, Phoenix, AZ 85002-3466, (602) 864-2288, TTY/TDD (602) 864-4823, crc@azblue.com. You can file a grievance in person or by mail or email. If you need help filing a grievance BCBSAZ's Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1–800–368–1019, 800–537–7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html

**Multi-Language Interpreter Services:**

Spanish: Si usted, o alguien a quien usted está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 602-864-4884.

Navajo: Díí kwe' é atah níllígíí Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haada yit'éego bíná'idílkiidgo éí doodago Háida bíjá aníyeeedííi t’áadoo le'é yína'idílkiidgo beehaz’ááníí hóló díí t’áa hazaad'ehí háká a’dooowolgo bee haz’á doo bááh illígíí. Atá’ halnéé'ígíi kójí’ bích’jí’ hodiilíinh 877-475-4799.

Chinese: 如果您，或是您正在协助的对象，有关于插入项目的名称 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona 方面的问题，您有权免费以您的母语得到帮助和讯息。洽询一位翻译员，电话在此插入数字 877-475-4799。

Vietnamese:Neal quá vị, hay người mà quá vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona quá vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thêm thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thông dịch viên, xin gọi 877-475-4799.

Arabic:
إن كان لديك أو لدى شخص تساعدك أسئلة بخصوص 
الضرورية يلطفك من دون أية تكلفة للتحدث مع متخصص اتصل ب 877-475-4799.
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Multi-Language Interpreter Services: (cont.)

Tagalog: Kung ikaw, o ang iyong tinutulungan, ay may mga katanungan tungkol sa Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, may karapatan ka na makakuha ng tulong at impormasyon sa iyong wika ng walang gastos. Upang makausap ang isang tagasalin, tumawag sa 877-475-4799.

Korean: 만약 귀하 또는 귀하가 돕고 있는 어떤 사람이 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona 에 관해서 질문이 있다면 귀하는 그러한 도움과 정보를 귀하의 언어로 비용 부담없이 얻을 수 있는 권리가 있습니다. 그렇게 동역사와 매개하기 위해서는 877-475-4799 로 전화하십시오.

French: Si vous, ou quelqu’un que vous êtes en train d’aider, a des questions à propos de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, vous avez le droit d’obtenir de l’aide et l’information dans votre langue à aucun coût. Pour parler à un interprète, appelez 877-475-4799.

German: Falls Sie oder jemand, dem Sie helfen, Fragen zum Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haben, haben Sie das Recht, kostenlose Hilfe und Informationen in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Um mit einem Dozmetscher zu sprechen, rufen Sie bitte die Nummer 877-475-4799 an.

Russian: Если у вас или лица, которому вы помогаете, имеются вопросы по поводу Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, то вы имеете право на бесплатное получение помощи и информации на вашем языке. Для разговора с переводчиком позвоните по телефону 877-475-4799.

Japanese: ご本人様、またはお客様の身の回りの方でも、Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizonaについてご質問がございましたら、ご希望の言語でサポートを受けたり、情報を入手したりすることができます。料金はかかりません。通訳とお話される場合、877-475-4799 までお電話ください。

Farsi: اگر شما یا کسی که شما به آن کمک می‌کنید، سوال در مورد اطلاعات بیتیان خود را به تلفن رایگان 877-475-4799 دوباره بپرسید.

Assyrian: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona بە سەکرەب، شوێنەکەیە لە خۆ، شوێنەکەیە لە زانیارییەکان دوبارە، تەوانەیەکان 877-475-4799.

Serbo-Croatian: Ukoliko Vi ili neko kome Vi pomažete ima pitanje o Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, imate pravo da besplatno dobijete pomoć i informacije na Vašem jeziku. Da biste razgovarali sa prevodiocem, nazovite 877-475-4799.

Thai: หากคุณหรือคนที่คุณช่วยเหลือมีคำถามเกี่ยวกับ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona คุณสามารถขอความช่วยเหลือและข้อมูลในภาษาของคุณได้โดยไม่ต้องจ่ายค่าบริการ โทร 877-475-4799