

MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection
Policy Number	2.02.55
Category	Technology Assessment
Original Effective Date	09/16/21
Committee Approval Date	09/16/21, 07/21/22, 07/20/23, 07/18/24
Current Effective Date	07/18/24
Archived Date	N/A
Archive Review Date	N/A
Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Services are contract dependent; if a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply.</i> • <i>If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan or Child Health Plus product), medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</i> • <i>If a Medicaid product covers a specific service, and there are no New York State Medicaid guidelines (eMedNY) criteria, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</i> • <i>If a Medicare product (including Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product) covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</i> • <i>If a Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product DOES NOT cover a specific service, please refer to the Medicaid Product coverage line.</i>

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, gene expression profiling (GEP), (i.e., AlloMap) has been medically proven to be effective and, therefore, is considered **medically appropriate** for the management of patients after heart transplantation when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:
 - A. Patient is age 15 years or older;
 - B. Patient is 55 days to five years post-heart transplantation;
 - C. Patient's heart allograft function is stable as demonstrated by **all** of the following:
 1. absence of signs or symptoms of congestive heart failure;
 2. current echocardiogram with left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) $\geq 45\%$;
 3. absence of severe cardiac allograft vasculopathy;
 4. no more than one episode of moderate or severe (grade 3A [2R]) cellular rejection within the past year;
 5. no history or evidence of antibody mediated rejection with associated hemodynamic compromise.
- II. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, measurement of donor-derived cell-free DNA (dd-cfDNA) (e.g., AlloSure, myTAIHEART, Prospera, Viracor TRAC, Clarava, Tuteva), has not been medically proven to be effective and, therefore, is considered **investigational** for the management of patients after organ transplantation including, but not limited to, the detection of acute transplant rejection or transplant graft dysfunction.
- III. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, measurement of donor and third-party-induced CD154+T-cytotoxic memory cells (e.g., Pleximark), has not been medically proven to be effective and, therefore, is considered **investigational** for the management of patients after organ transplantation including, but not limited to, the detection of acute transplant rejection or transplant graft dysfunction.
- IV. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, the Heart Molecular Microscope Diagnostic System (MMDx-Heart), and the Kidney Molecular Microscope Diagnostic System (MMDx-Kidney), have not been

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 2 of 10

medically proven to be effective and, therefore, are considered **investigational** for the management of patients after organ transplantation including, but not limited to, the detection of acute transplant rejection or transplant graft dysfunction.

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.02.04 Kidney Transplantation

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.02.06 Heart and Heart/Lung Transplant

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #11.01.03 Experimental or Investigational Services

DESCRIPTION

Diagnosis of allograft rejection continues to rely on clinical monitoring and histologic confirmation by tissue biopsy. The current standard for identifying rejection after heart transplantation is endomyocardial biopsy (EMB). Using the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) grading system, EMB samples can be classified as no rejection (Grade 0R), mild rejection (Grade 1R), moderate rejection (Grade 2R) or severe rejection (Grade 3R). These classifications help to establish and maintain the management of patients following transplantation. Surveillance EMBs are necessary because rejection may not manifest any clinical signs or symptoms. EMBs are initially performed weekly and then at decreasing intervals. Although surveillance protocols vary among transplant centers, typically EMBs are performed weekly for the first six weeks, biweekly until the third month, monthly to six months and then every one to three months, as indicated. At 12 to 24 months following transplantation, EMBs may be performed every three to twelve months thereafter, the frequency is center dependent.

EMB are required whenever clinical signs of rejection emerge. However, the procedure is not without limitations. It is painful, invasive and does not detect rejection until it is actually present. Biopsy specimens may be difficult to obtain and/or inadequate due to poor venous access. Tissue samples may also be obscured by scarring. Reported complications of EMB include hematoma, infection, arrhythmia, ventricular perforation, and fistulas. EMB are reported to be limited by suboptimal interobserver reproducibility and uniform interpretation, and there may be a lack of histological findings in patients who are hemodynamic compromise. Due to these limitations of tissue biopsy (i.e., a high degree of interobserver variability in the grading of results and its potential complications), less invasive alternatives have been investigated.

Surveillance of transplant kidney function relies on routine monitoring of serum creatinine, urine protein levels, and urinalysis. Allograft dysfunction may be demonstrated by a drop in urine output or, rarely, as pain over the transplant site. With clinical suspicion of allograft dysfunction, additional noninvasive workup including ultrasonography or radionuclide imaging may be used. A renal biopsy allows a definitive assessment of graft dysfunction and is typically a percutaneous procedure performed with ultrasonography or computed tomography guidance. Biopsy of a transplanted kidney is associated with fewer complications than biopsy of a native kidney because the allograft is typically transplanted more superficially than a native kidney. Renal biopsy is a low-risk invasive procedure that may result in bleeding complications; loss of a renal transplant, as a complication of renal biopsy, is rare.

Allomap (CareDx, Inc., Brisbane, CA) is a commercially available molecular expression test that has been developed to detect acute heart transplant rejection or the development of graft dysfunction. The test involves polymerase chain reaction-expression measurement of a panel of genes derived from peripheral blood cells and applies an algorithm to the results. The proprietary algorithm produces a single score that considers the contribution of each gene in the panel. The score ranges from 0 to 40. The lower the score, the less the likelihood that the patient will experience rejection. All AlloMap testing is performed at the CareDx reference laboratory in California. The test received United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 510(k) clearance in 2008 for use in conjunction with clinical assessment for aid in the identification of heart transplant recipients with stable allograft function and a low probability of moderate-to-severe transplant rejection. It is intended for patients at least 15 years old who are at least two months post-transplant.

AlloSure Kidney (CareDx, Inc., Brisbane, CA) is a commercially available, next-generation sequencing assay that quantifies the fraction of dd-cfDNA in renal transplant recipients relative to total cell-free DNA by measuring 266 single nucleotide variants. Separate genotyping of the donor or recipient is not required, but patients who receive a kidney transplant from a monozygotic (identical) twin are not eligible for this test. The fraction of dd-cfDNA relative to total cfDNA present in the peripheral blood sample is cited in the report.

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 3 of 10

Prospera (Natera, Inc., San Carlos, CA) is a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)-based dd-cfDNA assay used for the detection of allograft rejection/injury in renal transplant patients.

Pleximark is a novel assay, proprietary to Plexison, intended to assess the likelihood of rejection after renal transplantation by measuring T-cytotoxic memory lymphocytes to identify whether the transplanted kidney is eliciting an increased immune response from the transplant recipient, signifying kidney transplant rejection.

Molecular Microscope MMDx—Heart (Kashi Clinical Laboratories, Portland, OR) is a microarray-based system that utilizes microRNA profiling (mRNA gene expression analysis) to assess EMB specimens following heart transplantation. It is proposed for use in prognostic evaluations for AMR. The Kidney Molecular Microscope Diagnostic System (MMDx-Kidney) is an mRNA gene expression analysis of 1,494 genes utilizing microarray. It measures mRNA transcript levels in transplant kidney biopsy tissue, with allograft rejection and injury algorithm reported as a probability score.

Clarava (Verici Dx, Franklin, TN) is a pre-transplant prognosis test for the risk of early acute rejection. Tutivia (Verici Dx) is a post-transplant test focused upon acute cellular rejection, including sub-clinical rejection as correlates to histopathology findings. They are both blood tests using mRNA expression assay technology to produce a risk score for organ rejection with a proprietary AI algorithm. Tutivia used to be named Tuteva until a name change by Verici Dx in 2022.

RATIONALE

AlloMap (CareDx, Inc., Brisbane, CA)

Deng et al. (2006) reported results from the Cardiac Allograft Rejection Gene Expression Observational (CARGO) study which included eight U.S. cardiac transplant centers. The study was conducted in three phases: 1) candidate gene discovery, 2) diagnostic development using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays and statistical methods, and 3) validation through a prospective, blinded study. A total of 281 CARGO samples from 166 patients, one or more years post-transplant consisting of 160 (56.9%) grade 0, 68 (24.1%) grade 1A, 23 (8.1%) grade 1B, 21 (7.4%) grade 2 and 9 (3.2%) grade 3A or higher were tested. At a cutoff of 30, the positive predictive value (PPV) was 6.8%, the negative predictive value (NPV) was 99.6%, and 68% of the tests were estimated to be below this value. Limitations of the study include the inability of the test to rule-out episodes of mild rejection found on biopsy and a low PPV relative to biopsy resulting in a full workup when a non-quiet score is produced. The authors concluded that gene expression testing of blood cells can detect the absence of moderate/severe rejection, thus avoiding biopsy in certain clinical settings, but additional clinical experience is necessary to conclusively establish the predictive capacity of molecular testing for clinical events and its utility for monitoring immunosuppression.

Pham and colleagues (2010) conducted the Invasive Monitoring Attenuation through Gene Expression (IMAGE) trial to test the hypothesis that a strategy of monitoring for rejection involving gene-expression profiling is not inferior to a strategy that involves routine biopsies, with respect to a composite outcome of rejection with hemodynamic compromise, graft dysfunction, death, or re-transplantation. The IMAGE study was a randomized, event-driven, industry-sponsored, noninferiority trial conducted at 13 U.S. cardiac transplantation centers from January 2005 through October 2009. Patients were required to be at least six months post-cardiac transplantation, clinically stable, and to have a left ventricular ejection fraction of 45% or greater. Exclusion criteria included a history of severe allograft vasculopathy, antibody-mediated rejection, or the presence of signs or symptoms of heart failure. Patients were randomly assigned 1:1 to either gene-expression profiling (gene-profiling group) or to routine endomyocardial biopsies (biopsy group). All patients underwent routine surveillance visits at pre-specified time intervals between three to 12 months based on the transplant center protocol. A GEP score of less than 34 was considered to be at very low risk for moderate/severe acute cellular rejection (ACR) and these patients were treated as if they had no evidence of rejection. A GEP score of 34 or higher returned for EMB within five days after the initial clinic visit and were managed according to the EMB result. Patients were followed for a maximum of 24 months, until they died, or until the study completion date, whichever occurred first. The primary outcome was the first occurrence of rejection with hemodynamic compromise, graft dysfunction due to other causes, death, or re-transplantation. Secondary outcomes included death from any cause, the number of biopsies performed, and biopsy-related complications. Of the 2,946 potentially eligible patients, 1,665 (57%) were not approached or did not meet eligibility criteria. Although the reason was not recorded, common reasons for not enrolling a patient included a

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 4 of 10

complicated medical course and preference of the treating physician to continue with biopsy-based monitoring. Of the 1,281 patients invited to participate, a total of 602 patients were randomly assigned to either GEP or routine EMBs. The median duration of follow-up after randomization was 19.0 months. Results showed the two-year rate of the composite primary outcome in the gene-profiling group was similar to the rate in the biopsy group (14.5% and 15.3%, respectively) with a hazard ratio of 1.04. The two-year cumulative rate of death was 6.3% in the gene-profiling group and 5.5% in the biopsy group. A total of 409 biopsies were performed in the gene-profiling group, as compared with 1,249 performed in the biopsy group. Of the 34 treated episodes of rejection in the GEP group, six were initially detected based on a biopsy due to an elevated GEP score. The other episodes were detected because of the presence of overt symptoms of heart failure or echocardiographic evidence of graft dysfunction. Of the 47 treated episodes in the biopsy group, 22 were asymptomatic and detected on routine-biopsy alone. The authors discussed that although gene-expression profiling may not have detected all the cases of asymptomatic rejection, not all asymptomatic episodes of rejection that occur more than six months after transplantation warrant treatment. Limitations include the fact that only 20% of potentially eligible patients were enrolled, presumably in many cases because the patient's own physicians chose not to include higher-risk candidates which biased the study toward inclusion of low-risk patients. Only 15% of the total included patients (n=87) had undergone transplantation between six months to one year prior which is considered the time period for the highest risk for rejection. There was a lack of blinding in the study, as well as a lack of uniformity in study protocol as each institution followed its own interval protocol for surveillance testing. There was a wide noninferiority margin resulting in a wide confidence interval with the possibility of a 68% increase in risk with the GEP strategy. The authors state the study had limited power to allow for a firm conclusion to be reached regarding the use of gene-expression profiling as a substitute for the performance of biopsies and called for a larger trial with a narrower noninferiority margin and longer follow-up.

In 2023, the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation issued guidelines for the care of heart transplant recipients (Velleca A, et al., 2023). EMBs remain the gold standard for monitoring rejection in the early post-transplant phase and in symptomatic patients (Class IIa, Level of Evidence: C). More recently, the assessment of gene expression within allograft tissue and the identification of rejection-associated gene transcripts (e.g., Molecular Microscope, MMDx) has permitted improved discrimination between T-cell mediated or antibody mediated rejection and tissue injury, but this technology may not be clinically available outside of North America and is currently not in widespread use as a routine diagnostic test (No recommendation given). Since significant limitations associated with this invasive procedure have been recognized, many attempts have been carried out to identify non-invasive procedures to decrease or eliminate the use of surveillance EMBs. For the non-invasive monitoring of acute heart transplant rejection, a Class IIa recommendation was made for Gene Expression Profiling (GEP) (i.e., Allomap) of peripheral blood can be used in low-risk patients between two months and five years after HT to identify adult recipients who have low risk of current ACR to reduce the frequency of EMB. Data in children does not allow a general recommendation of GEP as a routine tool at present Class IIa, Level of Evidence: B. No other tests were recommended with the guideline update.

Kobashigawa et al. (2015) conducted the Early Invasive Monitoring Attenuation through Gene Expression (EIMAGE) study, a single-center, randomized trial that compared the safety and efficacy of GEP with EMB in the monitoring of cardiac transplant rejection beginning 55 days to six months post-transplant. A total of 60 heart transplant patients meeting inclusion criteria were randomized to either GEP or EMB arms with monitoring at prespecified intervals of 55 days and three, four, five, six, eight, ten and 12 months post-transplant. Endomyocardial biopsy outside of the scheduled visits was obtained in either group if there was clinical or echocardiographic evidence of graft dysfunction and for the GEP group if the score was above the specified threshold. A positive GEP of 30 or more between two and six months, or 34 or more after six months, prompted a follow-up biopsy. The primary end point included a composite of death/retransplant, rejection with hemodynamic compromise or graft dysfunction at 18 months post-transplant. A coprimary endpoint included change in first-year maximal intimal thickness by intravascular ultrasound, a recognized surrogate for long-term outcome. Results showed the composite end point was similar between the GEP and EMB groups (10% versus 17%; log-rank P=0.44). The coprimary end point of first-year intravascular ultrasound change demonstrated no difference in mean maximal intimal thickness (0.35±0.36 versus 0.36±0.26 mm; P=0.944). The number of biopsy-proven rejection episodes (International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation grading system ≥2R) within the first 18 months did not differ significantly between groups (three in the GEP group vs. one in the biopsy group; p=0.31). Of the rejections in the GEP group, one was detected after an elevated routine GEP test, while two were detected after

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 5 of 10

patients presented with hemodynamic compromise. At one year, the SF-12 mental-health and physical-health summary scores were not significantly different between the two study arms. Limitations include the study was not powered, a small sample size, few primary composite end points were reached (eight patients). The authors concluded that GEP starting at 55 days post-transplant seemed comparable with EMB for rejection surveillance in selected heart transplant patients and did not result in increased adverse outcomes.

Crespo-Leiro et al. (2016) reported results of the CARGO II study, a prospective, observational, multi-center study with blood samples and associated clinical data collected from follow-up visits of cardiac transplantation recipients from May 2005 through February 2009. The study was designed to evaluate GEP in a different population from CARGO, patients two to six months post-transplantation and patient greater than six months post-transplantation. At a GEP cutoff of 34, for patients who were at least two to six months post-transplant, the sensitivity of GEP for detecting grade 2R/>3A was 25.0%, and the specificity was 88.7%. The PPV and NPV were 4.0% and 98.4%, respectively. Using the same cutoff of 34, for patients more than six months posttransplant, the sensitivity of GEP was 25.0%, the specificity was 88.8%, the PPV was 4.3%, and the NPV was 98.3%. The number of true positives used in the above calculations was five (9.1%) of 55 for patients at least two to six months post-transplant and six (10.2%) of 59 for patients more than six months post-transplant.

AlloSure-Heart (CareDx, Inc., Brisbane, CA)

Khush and colleagues (2019) reported the results of Donor-Derived Cell-Free DNA-Outcomes AlloMap Registry (D-OAR) study, a large, prospective, multi-center, clinical validation study which assessed the ability of a standardized dd-cfDNA assay to detect acute rejection (AR) in HT recipients. The primary objective was to determine whether the dd-cfDNA level in an HT recipient's blood can differentiate rejection from the absence of rejection, as determined by endomyocardial biopsy interpretation. Secondary outcomes were to determine whether graft dysfunction in the absence of rejection is associated with increased dd-cfDNA levels and to characterize dd-cfDNA levels in stable patients who have no evidence of AR. A total of 740 HT recipients from 26 centers and 33 patients at high risk for antibody mediated rejection (AMR) were included. The dd-cfDNA levels were correlated to paired events of biopsy-based diagnosis of rejection. Results showed the median dd-cfDNA was 0.07% in reference HT recipients (2164 samples) and 0.17% in samples classified as acute rejection (35 samples; $P = .005$). At a 0.2% threshold, dd-cfDNA had an 80% specificity, 44% sensitivity to detect rejection, a 97% NPV, and an 8.9% PPV.

AlloSure-Kidney (CareDx, Inc., Brisbane, CA)

Bloom and colleagues (2017) reported results from the Circulating Donor-Derived Cell-Free DNA in Blood for Diagnosing Acute Rejection in Kidney Transplant Recipients (DART) study, a multicenter study of renal allograft recipients using AlloSure. A total of 102 kidney recipients between one to three months post-transplantation were included in the analysis as they had undergone biopsy. From these participants, 107 clinically indicated biopsies were compared to plasma dd-cfDNA. Biopsies performed for surveillance ($n=34$ biopsies) were excluded from analysis in this study, as only one biopsy for surveillance demonstrated acute rejection. There were 27 biopsy specimens from 27 patients with active rejection and 80 biopsy specimens from 75 patients without active rejection. With a cutoff of 1.0%, dd-cfDNA had an 85% specificity (95% CI, 79% to 91%) and 59% sensitivity (95% CI, 44% to 74%) to discriminate active rejection from no rejection. Positive and negative predictive values for active rejection at a cutoff of 1.0% dd-cfDNA were 61% and 84%, respectively. Limitations include the inability to estimate the performance of dd-cfDNA to discriminate active rejection in patients who may have had sub-clinical rejection because there were only 34 surveillance biopsies and only one finding of active rejection. Biopsy-matched blood samples were not collected for all biopsy specimens, and some of the matched blood samples were excluded due to issues, such as inadequate amount of total DNA or timing of the blood draw relative to the biopsy. Of all collected blood samples, 4.5 % did not render results due to some aspect of sample collection or testing.

Huang et al. (2019) reported early results of a single-center study using dd-cfDNA to determine rejection in kidney transplant recipients, particularly for the diagnosis of antibody-mediated rejection (ABMR) among patients with DSA. A total of 63 adult kidney transplant recipients with suspicion of rejection with dd-cfDNA and allograft biopsy were included. Of these, 27 (43%) patients had donor-specific antibodies and 34 (54%) were found to have rejection by biopsy: 10 (15.9%) were cell-mediated only, 22 (25.4%) were antibody-mediated only, and 2 (3.2%) were mixed cell-mediated

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 6 of 10

and antibody-mediated. The percentage of dd-cfDNA was higher among patients with antibody-mediated rejection (ABMR; median 1.35%; interquartile range [IQR]: 1.10%-1.90%) compared to those with no rejection (median 0.38%, IQR: 0.26%-1.10%; $P < .001$) and cell-mediated rejection (CMR; median: 0.27%, IQR: 0.19%-1.30%; $P = .01$). The dd-cfDNA test did not discriminate patients with CMR from those without rejection. The area under the ROC curve (AUC) for CMR was 0.42 (95% CI: 0.17-0.66). For ABMR, the AUC was 0.82 (95% CI: 0.71-0.93) and a dd-cfDNA $\geq 0.74\%$ yielded a sensitivity of 100%, specificity 71.8%, PPV 68.6%, and NPV 100%. For any rejection diagnosis (including either CMR, ABMR, or mixed rejection), the optimal cut point was a dd-cfDNA threshold of $\geq 0.74\%$, which was associated with a sensitivity of 79.4% and specificity of 72.4%. The associated PPV and NPV at the 0.74% threshold was 77.1% and 75.0%, respectively. At a dd-cfDNA threshold $> 1.0\%$, the sensitivity was 67.6%, specificity 72.4%, PPV 74.2%, and NPV 65.6%. The authors found dd-cfDNA was not able to discriminate CMR from no rejection. Limitations include the single-center design and small number of patients.

Prospera (Natera, Inc., San Carlos, CA)

Sigdel et al. (2018) reported results of a retrospective analysis which examined a novel single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)-based massively multiplexed PCR (mmPCR) methodology to measure dd-cfDNA in various types of renal transplant recipients for the detection of allograft rejection/injury. A total of 277 plasma samples from 178 unique kidney transplant recipients were included in the analysis. Of these, 217 were biopsy-matched with 38 with active rejection (AR), 72 borderline rejections (BL), 82 with stable allografts (STA), and 25 with other injury (OI). The 60 plasma samples with no matched biopsy were excluded. The SNP-based dd-cfDNA assay discriminated active from non-rejection status with an area under the curve (AUC) of 0.87, 88.7% sensitivity (95% CI, 77.7–99.8%) and 72.6% specificity (95% CI, 65.4–79.8%) at a prespecified cutoff ($> 1\%$ dd-cfDNA). Based on a 25% prevalence of rejection in an at-risk population, the positive predictive value (PPV) was projected to be 52.0% (95% CI, 44.7–59.2%) and the negative predictive value (NPV) was projected to be 95.1% (95% CI, 90.5–99.7%).

For GEP to assess cardiac allograft rejection, one large RCT (IMAGE) compared GEP with EMB and found GEP to be noninferior. The evidence is sufficient to determine improvement in health outcomes.

For dd-cfDNA, most of the studies have limited methodological quality. All studies were retrospective or prospective cohorts and many selected patients based upon clinical manifestation of graft injury. The gold standard test (biopsy) was often only applied in patients with clinical evidence of graft dysfunction which leads to questions around the clinical utility of dd-cfDNA as it is uncertain if it can detect subclinical graft injury. Validation studies are needed for the determined dd-cfDNA threshold, as well as the impact of prospective monitoring on clinical outcomes. It has been suggested that regular monitoring of dd-cfDNA may help to detect subclinical rejection, however, the optimum interval for dd-cfDNA measurement for routine transplant monitoring is still uncertain. Studies used minimum intervals of one month between tests, with shorter intervals in the early post-transplant period when the risk of rejection and infection are highest. Since normal levels do not rule-out CMR, clinically indicated biopsies should not be precluded by below threshold dd-cfDNA. More data are needed, particularly randomized trials comparing dd-cfDNA to the current standard of care.

For other tests for detection of transplant rejection including, allospecific CD154+T-cytotoxic memory cells and microarray-based systems tests, the evidence is insufficient to determine improvement in health outcomes.

CODES

- *Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.*
- ***CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.***
- *Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.*
- *Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/appropriate = (NMN).*

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 7 of 10

CPT Codes

Code	Description
81479 (E/I)	Unlisted molecular pathology procedure
81560 (E/I)	Transplantation medicine (allograft rejection, pediatric liver and small bowel), measurement of donor and third-party-induced CD154+T-cytotoxic memory cells, utilizing whole peripheral blood, algorithm reported as a rejection risk score
81595	Cardiology (heart transplant), mRNA, gene expression profiling by real-time quantitative PCR of 20 genes (11 content and 9 housekeeping), utilizing subfraction of peripheral blood, algorithm reported as a rejection risk score
0018M (E/I)	Transplantation medicine (allograft rejection, renal), measurement of donor and third party-induced CD154+T-cytotoxic memory cells, utilizing whole peripheral blood, algorithm reported as a rejection risk score
0055U (E/I)	Cardiology (heart transplant), cell-free DNA, PCR assay of 96 DNA target sequences (94 single nucleotide polymorphism targets and two control targets), plasma (myTAIHEART, TAI Diagnostics, Inc)
0087U (E/I)	Cardiology (heart transplant), mRNA gene expression profiling by microarray of 1283 genes, transplant biopsy tissue, allograft rejection and injury algorithm reported as a probability score (Molecular Microscope® MMDx—Heart, Kashi Clinical Laboratories)
0088U (E/I)	Transplantation medicine (kidney allograft rejection) microarray gene expression profiling of 1494 genes, utilizing transplant biopsy tissue, algorithm reported as a probability score for rejection (Molecular Microscope® MMDx—Kidney, Kashi Clinical Laboratories)
0118U (E/I)	Transplantation medicine, quantification of donor-derived cell-free DNA using whole genome next-generation sequencing, plasma, reported as percentage of donor-derived cell-free DNA in the total cell-free DNA (Viracor TRAC™ dd-cfDNA, Viracor Eurofins)
0319U (E/I)	Nephrology (renal transplant), RNA expression by select transcriptome sequencing, using pretransplant peripheral blood, algorithm reported as a risk score for early acute rejection (Clarava™, Verici Dx, Verici Dx, Inc)
0320U (E/I)	Nephrology (renal transplant), RNA expression by select transcriptome sequencing, using posttransplant peripheral blood, algorithm reported as a risk score for acute cellular rejection (Tuteva™, Verici Dx, Verici Dx, Inc)

*Copyright © 2024 American Medical Association, Chicago, IL***HCPCS Codes**

Code	Description
No codes	

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
T86.10 - T86.19	Complications of kidney transplant (code range)

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 8 of 10

Code	Description
T86.20 - T86.298	Complications of heart transplant (code range)
Z48.21	Encounter for aftercare following heart transplant
Z48.22	Encounter for aftercare following kidney transplant
Z94.0	Kidney transplant status
Z94.1	Heart transplant status

REFERENCES

*Ashokkumar C, et al. Allospecific CD154+ T-cytotoxic memory cells identify recipients experiencing acute cellular rejection after renal transplantation. Transplantation 2011 Aug;92(4):433-8.

Bestard O, et al. Prospective observational study to validate a next-generation sequencing blood RNA signature to predict early kidney transplant rejection. Am J Transplant 2024 Mar;24(3):436-447.

*Bloom RD, et al. Cell-free DNA and active rejection in kidney allografts. J Am Soc Nephrol 2017 Jul;28(7):2221-2232.

*Bromberg JS, et al. biological variation of donor-derived cell-free DNA in renal transplant recipients: clinical implications. J Appl Lab Med 2017 Nov;2(3):309-321.

*Costanzo MR, et al. The International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation Guidelines for the care of heart transplant recipients. J Heart Lung Transplant 2010 Aug;29(8):914-56.

*Crespo-Leiro MG, et al. Clinical usefulness of gene-expression profile to rule out acute rejection after heart transplantation: CARGO II. Eur Heart J 2016 Sep;37(33):2591-601.

Das BB, et al. Correlation of gene expression profiling score, cardiac hemodynamics and echocardiographic parameters in asymptomatic, rejection-free pediatric heart transplant recipients. Pediatr Transplant 2020 May;24(3):e13673.

*Deng MC, et al. Noninvasive discrimination of rejection in cardiac allograft recipients using gene expression profiling. Am J Transplant 2006 Jan;6(1):150-60.

Golbus JR, et al. Utility of routine evaluations for rejection in patients greater than 2 years after heart transplantation. ESC Heart Fail 2020 Aug;7(4):1809-1816.

Gondi KT, et al. Single-center utilization of donor-derived cell-free DNA testing in the management of heart transplant patients. Clin Transplant 2021 May;35(5):e14258.

Gupta G, et al. Correlation of donor-derived cell-free DNA with histology and molecular diagnoses of kidney transplant biopsies. Transplantation 2021 May. Online ahead of print.

*Halloran PF, et al. Real time central assessment of kidney transplant indication biopsies by microarrays: the INTERCOMEX study. Am J Transplant 2017 Nov;17(11):2851-2862.

*Halloran PF, et al. Building a tissue-based molecular diagnostic system in heart transplant rejection: the heart Molecular Microscope Diagnostic (MMDx) System. J Heart Lung Transplant 2017 Nov;36(11):1192-1200.

Halloran PF, et al. The trifecta study: comparing plasma levels of donor-derived cell free dna with the molecular phenotype of kidney transplant biopsies: Journal of the American Society of Nephology 2022 Feb;33(2): 387-400.

Henricksen EJ, et al. Combining donor derived cell free DNA and gene expression profiling for non-invasive surveillance after heart transplantation. Clin Transplant 2023 Mar;37(3):e14699.

Holzhauser L, et al. Donor-derived cell-free DNA is associated with cardiac allograft vasculopathy. Clin Transplant 2021 Mar;35(3):e14206.

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 9 of 10

*Huang E, et al. Early clinical experience using donor-derived cell-free DNA to detect rejection in kidney transplant recipients. Am J Transplant 2019 Jun;19(6):1663-1670.

*Jordan SC, et al. Donor-derived cell-free DNA identifies antibody-mediated rejection in donor specific antibody positive kidney transplant recipients. Transplant Direct 2018 Aug 20;4(9):e379.

Kanwar MK, et al. Impact of cytomegalovirus infection on gene expression profile in heart transplant recipients. J Heart Lung Transplant 2021 Feb;40(2):101-107.

*Khush KK, et al. Noninvasive detection of graft injury after heart transplant using donor-derived cell-free DNA: A prospective multicenter study. Am J Transplant 2019 Oct;19(10):2889-2899.

Knight SR, et al. Donor-specific cell-free DNA as a biomarker in solid organ transplantation. A systematic review. Transplantation 2019 Feb;103(2):273-283.

*Kobashigawa J, et al. Randomized pilot trial of gene expression profiling versus heart biopsy in the first year after heart transplant: early invasive monitoring attenuation through gene expression trial. Circ Heart Fail 2015 May;8(3):557-64.

Madill-Thomsen K, et al. Discrepancy analysis comparing molecular and histology diagnoses in kidney transplant biopsies. Am J Transplant 2020 May;20(5):1341-1350.

Moayedi Y, et al. Risk evaluation using gene expression screening to monitor for acute cellular rejection in heart transplant recipients. J Heart Lung Transplant 2019 Jan;38(1):51-58.

*Pham MX, et al. Gene-expression profiling for rejection surveillance after cardiac transplantation. N Engl J Med 2010 May 20;362(20):1890-900.

Puliyanda DP, et al. Donor-derived cell-free DNA (dd-cfDNA) for detection of allograft rejection in pediatric kidney transplants. Pediatr Transplant 2021 Mar;25(2):e13850.

Richmond ME, et al. Validation of donor fraction cell-free DNA with biopsy-proven cardiac allograft rejection in children and adults. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2023 Feb;165(2):460-468.

Rodgers N, et al. Comparison of two donor-derived cell-free DNA tests and a blood gene-expression profile test in heart transplantation. Clin Transplant 2023 Jun;37(6):e14984.

Velleca A, et al. The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) guidelines for the care of heart transplant recipients. J Heart Lung Transplant 2023 May;42(5):e1-e141.

Yasir Q et al. Incorporation of donor-derived cell-free dna into clinical practice for renal allograft management. Transplantation Proceedings 2021 Dec;53(10) 2866-2872.

*Key Article

KEY WORDS

AlloMap, AlloSure, Prospera, myTAIHEART, Viracor TRAC

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

There is currently a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for Molecular Pathology Procedures (L35000) addressing Allomap. Please refer to the following LCD website for Medicare members:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=35000&ver=144&keyword=molecular+pathology&keywordType=starts&areaId=s41&docType=NCA%2CCAL%2CNCD%2CMEDCAC%2CTA%2CMCD%2C6%2C3%2C5%2C1%2CF%2CP&contractOption=all&sortBy=relevance&bc=AAAAAAQAAAAA&KeyWordLookUp=Doc&KeyWordSearchType=Exact> accessed 06/24/24.

There is currently a Local Coverage Article (LCA) for Billing and Coding: Molecular Pathology Procedures (A56199) addressing Allomap. Please refer to the following LCA website for Medicare Members:

Medical Policy: Laboratory Testing for Transplantation Rejection

Policy Number: 2.02.55

Page: 10 of 10

[<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleid=56199&ver=102&lcdid=35000&keyword=molecular+pathology&keywordType=stars&areald=s41&docType=NCA%2CCAL%2CNCD%2CMEDCAC%2CTA%2CMCD%2C6%2C3%2C5%2C1%2CF%2CP&contractOption=all&sortBy=relevance&KeyWordLookUp=Doc&KeyWordSearchType=Exact&bc=AAAAAAQIAAAAAA&=>] accessed 06/24/24.

Based upon our review, AlloSure, myTAIHEART, Prospera, Viracor TRAC, Clarava, Tutivia, Pleximark, MMDx-Heart, or MMDx-Kidney are not addressed in National or Regional Medicare coverage determinations or policies.

However, please refer to the Medicare Managed Care Manual/Chapter 4: Benefits and Beneficiary Protections (Rev. 121, Issued: 04-22-16)/Section 90 National and Local Coverage Determinations/Subsection 90.4.1 MAC with Exclusive Jurisdiction over a Medicare Item or Service:

In some instances, one Medicare A/B MAC processes all of the claims for a particular Medicare-covered item or service for all Medicare beneficiaries around the country. This generally occurs when there is only one provider of a particular item or service (for example, certain pathology and lab tests furnished by independent laboratories). In this situation, MA plans must follow the coverage policy reflected in an LCD issued by the A/B MAC that enrolled the provider and processes all the Medicare claims for that item or service.

[<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs-Items/CMS019326>] accessed 06/24/24.