

MARKERS FOR DIGESTIVE DISORDERS

Effective Date: December 1, 2025 Review Dates: 2/11, 2/12, 2/13, 2/14, 2/15, 2/16,

11/16, 8/17, 11/17,11/18, 11/19, 11/20, 11/21, 11/22,

5/23, 5/24, 2/25, 11/25

Date Of Origin: February 9, 2011 Status: Current

Summary of Changes

Addition:

• Crohn's Prognostic, IBD sgi Diagnostic, and PredictSure IDB are experimental and investigational.

Medical necessity criteria for Helicobacter pylori testing.

I. POLICY/CRITERIA

A. Inflammatory digestive disorders

- 1. Measurements of serum concentration of infliximab (IFX) or adalimumab (ADA) or vedolizumab (VDZ) or ustekinumab (UST) for reactive therapeutic drug monitoring of members with active inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) treated with anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) agents are considered medically necessary.
- 2. Measurements of anti-drug antibody to infliximab or adalimumab or vedolizumab or ustekinumab are medically necessary to assess therapy response (i.e., dose escalation) when the biologic agent drug level is below the therapeutic range and limited to 1 test per 6 months. Routine or serial testing is not medically necessary due to insufficient evidence demonstrating improvement in clinical outcomes or management.
- 3. Thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT) phenotype (analysis of enzyme activity) and genotype (identification of specific variants) testing for thiopurine drug response may be medically necessary according to EviCore guidelines.
- 4. 6-thioguanine nucleotide (6-TGN) and 6-methylmercaptopurine nucleotide (6-MMPN) measurements (e.g., PRO-PredictR 6MP / azathioprine, PRO-Predict Metabolites) are medically necessary to monitor compliance in those not responding to 6-MP or azathioprine and to assess suspected toxicity.
- 5. Fecal measurement of calprotectin is medically necessary for the management of inflammatory bowel diseases (e.g., Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis). It is not medically necessary for other indications because its clinical utility has not been established.
- 6. The following genetic tests are medically necessary according to Evicore guidelines:

Markers for Digestive Disorders

a. PredictSURE IBD

- 7. The following tests are experimental and investigational because their clinical utility has not been established.
 - a. Crohn's disease peptide antibody testing
 - b. Crohn's Prognostic
 - c. ECM1 and Stat-3 testing for ulcerative colitis
 - d. IBD sgi Diagnostic
 - e. Measurement of serum mannose-binding lectin
 - f. Myeloperoxidase antibody testing for inflammatory bowel disease,
 - g. Proactive therapeutic drug monitoring to predict therapeutic response in the management of IBD or UC (e.g., PredictrPK IFX)
 - h. Proteinase-3 antibody testing,
 - i. Raman spectroscopy for inflammatory bowel disease.

B. Celiac Disease

- 1. Serological testing of IgA anti-human tissue transglutaminase (TTG) antibodies (TGA), and IgA anti-endomysial antibodies (EMA) are medically necessary for any of the following indications:
 - a. As a preliminary diagnostic test for persons with symptoms suggestive of celiac disease; *or*
 - b. To monitor response to a gluten-free diet; or
 - c. To screen first-degree relatives of individuals with celiac disease; or
 - d. To screen persons with type 1 diabetes for celiac disease.
- 2. IgG-TTG and IgG-EMA are medically necessary for persons with symptoms suggestive of celiac disease and a serum IgA deficiency.
- 3. Deamidated gliadin antibodies (DGP) testing is medically necessary if IgA deficiency is present.
- 4. Serological tests individually or as part of a panel (IgA-AGA, IgG-AGA, IgA-TTG, and IgA-EMAt) for celiac disease (i.e. PROMETHEUS® Celiac PLUS, PROMETHEUS® Celiac Serology) are experimental and investigational as an alternative to biopsy for assessing mucosal damage in individuals with celiac disease, and for all other indications.
- 5. Genetic testing for HLA-DQ2 and HLA-DQ8 haplotypes is medically necessary ONLY for members with symptoms suggestive of celiac disease and indeterminate serology results. Genetic testing as initial screening in symptomatic or in asymptomatic individuals is experimental and investigational (i.e., MyCeliacID, PROMETHEUS® Celiac Genetics).
- 6. The following tests are experimental and investigational for the diagnosis of celiac disease: (not an all-inclusive list):
 - a. D-xylose and/or lactulose absorption test
 - b. Intestinal permeability tests
 - c. Salivary tests
 - d. Small-bowel follow-through (barium follow-through examination)
 - e. Stool studies

Markers for Digestive Disorders

- C. Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori): Testing for active H. pylori infection is considered medically necessary when one or more of the following clinical indications are present.
 - 1. For individuals 18 years of age and older:
 - a. Dyspepsia without alarm features in patients <60 years of age.
 - b. Documented history of peptic ulcer disease (gastric or duodenal).
 - c. Gastric MALT lymphoma.
 - d. History of endoscopic resection of early gastric cancer (EGC)
 - e. Gastric intestinal metaplasia (GIM)
 - f. Post-endoscopic resection of early gastric cancer.
 - g. Long-term nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) use.
 - h. Unexplained iron deficiency anemia.
 - i. Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).
 - j. Confirmation of eradication following appropriate antimicrobial therapy (≥4 weeks after completion of therapy).
 - k. Family history of gastric cancer
 - 1. First-generation immigrants from a high prevalence area
 - 2. For individuals less than 18 years of age:
 - a. Urea breath testing or stool antigen testing meets coverage criteria in the following situations:
 - Chronic ITP with suspected H. pylori infection
 - To measure the success of eradication of H. pylori infection (follow-up measurement at least 4 weeks post-treatment)
 - b. A biopsy-based endoscopic histology test and either a rapid urease test or a culture with susceptibility testing to diagnose an H. pylori infection meets coverage criteria in the following situations:
 - Gastric or duodenal ulcers
 - Refractory iron deficiency anemia (when other causes have been ruled out)

D. Hydrogen and Methane Breath Tests

- 1. Hydrogen and methane breath testing are considered medically necessary for suspected lactose intolerance.
- 2. At-home hydrogen and methane breath testing are not medically necessary.
 - i. Trio-Smart Breath Test is experimental and investigational.

II. DESCRIPTION

Markers for Digestive Disorders

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) includes two major disorders: ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn disease (CD). UC affects the colon and is characterized by inflammation of the mucosal layer. CD is characterized by transmural inflammation and may involve any portion of luminal gastrointestinal tract, from the oral cavity to the perianal area.

Crohn's disease has an unknown etiology that may be influenced by genetic, immunologic, and environmental factors. The American College of Gastroenterology (AGA) Practice Guidelines for Management of Crohn's disease in adults (Lichtenstein et al., 2018) states that the diagnosis of Crohn's disease (CD) is based on a combination of clinical presentation and endoscopic, radiologic, histologic, and pathologic findings that demonstrate some degree of focal, asymmetric, and transmural granulomatous inflammation of the luminal GI tract. Laboratory testing is complementary in assessing disease severity and complications of disease. There is no single laboratory test that can make an unequivocal diagnosis of CD. The sequence of testing is dependent on presenting clinical features. Routine use of serologic markers of IBD to establish the diagnosis of Crohn's disease is not indicated.

Ulcerative colitis is a chronic immune-mediated inflammatory disease in which abnormal reactions of the immune system cause inflammation and ulcers on the inner lining of the large intestine (NIDDK, 2020). The American College of Gastroenterology Ulcerative Colitis Practice Guidelines in Adults (2019) states that serologic markers such as perinuclear antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (pANCAs) may be found in up to 70% of patients with UC, and combination of negative anti–Saccharomyces cerevisiae antibodies with elevated pANCA levels has been proposed to facilitate establishing a diagnosis of UC. However, the pooled sensitivity of antibody testing for diagnosis of UC is low, and such markers are not used for establishing or ruling out a diagnosis of UC. Although pANCA positivity has also been associated with treatment refractory UC, the evidence supporting this is limited, and there is currently no role for such testing to determine the likelihood of disease evolution and prognosis.

The North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America consensus conference report on differentiating UC from CD in children and young adults (Bousvaros, et al., 2007) states that the value of serology in a patient with IC remains a topic of study, and further research should examine, among other areas, the role of surrogate laboratory markers (genetics, serology, microbiology) in distinguishing these entities. A proposed algorithm to assist clinicians in differentiating UC from CD does not include serological testing.

The American Gastroenterological Association Clinical Guidelines for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Feuerstein et al, 2017) suggests reactive therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) to guide treatment

Markers for Digestive Disorders

changes in adults with active IBD treated with anti-TNF agents. However, the AGA does not recommend the use of routine proactive therapeutic drug monitoring in adult patients with inactive IBD treated with anti-TNF agents. Defined as the assessment of drug concentrations and anti-drug antibodies, TDM, is an important tool for optimizing biologic therapy. Anti-drug antibody testing in patients who are undergoing treatment for IBD has been proposed to help determine whether ongoing treatment is safe and effective and whether changes are needed. Many patients who initially benefit from treatment experience a gradual decline or loss of treatment efficacy, which is often attributable to formation of anti-drug antibody that inactivate or accelerate the clearance of the drugs from the bloodstream. Anti-drug antibody levels are usually measured with an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), but in patients who are undergoing treatment with ADA, IFX, UST, VDZ, detecting ATI with a conventional ELISA is often not possible because of interference by the drugs in the blood sample. This interference can be overcome, but it requires specialized sample processing or a more complex assay technique. Prometheus Anser tests (Anser ADA, IFX, UST, and VDZ) are novel laboratory-developed tests that measure both serum drug and anti-drug antibodies. An Expert Consensus Development Meeting consisting of members of the BRIDGe group and TDM specialists reached consensus statements on the application of TDM in clinical practice (Papamichael, 2019) including when it would be appropriate to order drug/antibody concentration testing.

Celiac disease is an autoimmune disease of the small intestine caused by sensitivity to dietary gluten and related proteins that occurs in genetically predisposed people. Celica disease has a wide spectrum of clinical manifestations that resemble a multisystemic disorder rather than an isolated intestinal disease and is characterized by small bowel injury and the presence of specific antibodies (Rubio-Tapia, 2023). In patients with celiac disease, immune responses to gliadin fractions promote an inflammatory reaction, characterized by infiltration of the lamina propria and the epithelium with chronic inflammatory cells and villous atrophy. Serologic evaluation of tissue transglutaminase (tTG)- immunoglobulin A (IgA) antibody is the preferred test for detection of celiac disease in adults. Serologic testing of serum tissue transglutaminase (tTG)-immunoglobulin A (IgA) and endomysial (EMA)-IgA antibody tests have high sensitivities. Intestinal biopsy is required in most patients to confirm the diagnosis.

According to the American College of Gastroenterology Guidelines Update: Diagnosis and Management of Celiac Disease (2023), genetic testing for CD-compatible human leukocyte antigen (HLA) haplotype is not required for diagnosis in all cases but may be helpful in selected situations such as in the context of serology-histology discrepancy In a change from their previous guidelines, ACG no longer recommends the use of AGA antibodies to test for celiac disease (Rubio-Tapia, 2023). Assays for deamidated gliadin peptide (DGP) antibodies have been shown to have reasonably high accuracy. The use of anti-reticulin antibodies (ARA) in the diagnosis of celiac disease has fallen out of

Markers for Digestive Disorders

favor. While IgA antibodies to reticulin connective tissue did see some use, primarily in pediatric celiac disease evaluation, and appeared to have test performance equal to or better than AGA, ARA was largely supplanted first by AGA for technical reasons and later on by EMA and tTG which had markedly better test performance (Adriaanse et al, 2015). In a review of literature and recommendations for serologic evaluation for celiac disease by Nandiwata and colleagues (2013), it was concluded that ARA assays lack optimal sensitivities and specificities for routine diagnostic use.

The USPSTF (2017) found inadequate evidence regarding the accuracy of screening tests for celiac disease in asymptomatic populations. The USPSTF concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for celiac disease in asymptomatic persons. Evidence is lacking, and the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined.

Hydrogen/Methane Breath Testing

Hydrogen and methane breath testing is a non-invasive, accurate, standard method of diagnosing lactose intolerance. Lactose intolerance has a high prevalence worldwide, ranging between 57% and 65%. It is caused by a reduction or loss of the activity of the intestinal enzyme lactase-phlorizin hydrolase, responsible for the digestion of lactose. This alteration determines an increased osmotic load in the small intestine and the fermentation of lactose by the bacterial flora, which leads to a high production of short-chain fatty acids and gas. This is followed by the onset of abdominal pain, diarrhea, and flatulence. The diagnosis is essential to undertake an adequate treatment and, for this purpose, different methods have been tested. These include genetic test, hydrogen breath test (HBT), quick lactase test, and lactose tolerance test. HBT is the most used method because it is non-invasive, inexpensive, and highly sensitive and specific, as well as easy to perform. (Catanzaro et al., 2021). According to the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), hydrogen breath testing(H₂) is traditionally performed in an outpatient laboratory setting. A meta-analysis by Marton, Xue, and Szilagyi (2012) comparing the diagnostic accuracy of lactose H₂ breath tests found an overall sensitivity of 0.88 (CI 0.85–0.90) and specificity of 0.85 (CI 0.82–0.87). Home hydrogen breath testing has not been proven to be a reliable diagnostic method in current peer-reviewed, published literature.

American College of Gastroenterology <u>Clinical Guideline: Small Intestinal</u> <u>Bacterial Overgrowth</u> (2020) suggest the use of breath testing (glucose hydrogen or lactulose hydrogen) for the diagnosis of SIBO in patients with IBS (conditional recommendation, very low level of evidence), glucose hydrogen or lactulose hydrogen breath testing for the diagnosis of SIBO in symptomatic patients with suspected motility disorders" (conditional recommendation, very low level of evidence) and testing for SIBO using glucose hydrogen or lactulose hydrogen breath testing in symptomatic patients (abdominal pain, gas, bloating, and/or

Markers for Digestive Disorders

diarrhea) with previous luminal abdominal surgery" (conditional recommendation, very low level of evidence).

Hydrogen and Methane-Based Breath Testing in Gastrointestinal Disorders: The North American Consensus (2017) suggest breath testing in the diagnosis of small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (moderate quality evidence) and to evaluate for excessive methane excretion on breath test in association with clinical constipation and slowing of gastrointestinal transit" (moderate quality evidence).

IBD sgi Diagnostic is a commercial proprietary assay combines serologic, genetic, and inflammatory biomarkers in a testing algorithm as an aid in differentiating IBD from IBS, and ulcerative colitis from Crohn's disease. The test includes 9 serological markers including antiFla-X, anti-A4-Fla2, anti-CBir1, anti-OMPC, and DNAse-sensitive pANCA, genetic evaluation of ATG16L1, STAT3, NKX2-3, and ECM1. Inflammatory markers include VEGF, ICAM, VCAM, CRP, and SAA.

Crohn's Prognostic is a commercial proprietary assay combines serologic testing (anti-CBir1, anti-OMPC, DNAse sensitive pANCA) and genetic markers (NOD2 variants SNPs 8,12,13) and employs an algorithm to quantify the probability of disease complications over time.

The PredictSURE IBD test is a reverse-transcriptase quantitative polymerase chain reaction performed on whole blood of untreated IBD patients, evaluating expression of 15 informative genes and 2 reference genes. The CD8 T cell gene expression signature generated is analyzed by a proprietary algorithm, which aims to predict which IBD patients will have a more aggressive disease course.

H. Pylori Testing

Since the discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) in 1983, numerous detection methods for the presence of the bacterium have been developed. Each one of them has been associated with advantages and disadvantages. Noninvasive tests such as serology, urea breath test (UBT) and stool antigen tests are usually preferred by clinicians. Serology has its own limitations, especially in endemic areas while UBT is technically very demanding. The stool antigen detection method, although specific, is usually associated with poor sensitivity. The UBT is believed to be specific, however the stomach is colonized by many other urease producing bacteria, which makes it questionable. Histology, culture, rapid urease test and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) are the tests which are carried out on antral biopsies collected by invasive means. Histology has been proposed to be very sensitive and specific, but doubts have been raised about how examining the morphology of the bacteria in the microscope can yield the conclusion that the bacterium is exclusively H. pylori. Rapid urease test (RUT) is also challenged because the presence of other urease producing bacteria in the stomach cannot be denied. Moreover, RUT has been reported with poor sensitivity, especially when

Markers for Digestive Disorders

the density of the bacterium is low. Isolation of *H. pylori* is essential to investigate its growth requirements, antibiotic susceptibility testing, studying virulence factor to develop vaccine and many more explorations. It has also got several disadvantages, *i.e.*, special conditions for transporting, media, incubation and few days waiting for the colonies to appear, apart from the speed essentially needed to process the specimens. (Patel et al., 2014)

Guidance for H. pylori testing based on clinical features and presentation can be found in various medical society guidelines including but not limited to American College of Gastroenterology, European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, and World Gastroenterology Organization.

III. CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS) COVERAGE DETERMINATION

Any applicable federal or state mandates will take precedence over this medical coverage policy.

Medicare: Refer to the <u>CMS Online Manual System (IOMs)</u> and Transmittals. For the most current applicable CMS National Coverage Determination (NCD)/Local Coverage Determination (LCD)/Local Coverage Article (LCA) refer to <u>CMS Medicare Coverage Database</u>.

The information below is current as of the review date for this policy. However, the coverage issues and policies maintained by CMS are updated and/or revised periodically. Therefore, the most current CMS information may not be contained in this document. MAC jurisdiction for purposes of local coverage determinations is governed by the geographic service area where the Medicare Advantage plan is contracted to provide the service. Please refer to the Medicare Coverage Database website for the most current applicable NCD, LCD, LCA, and CMS Online Manual System/Transmittals.

National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)		
National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)	[NCD # and title hyperlink]	
Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)		
MoIDX	Prometheus® IBD sgi Diagnostic® Policy - L37299	

IV. GUIDELINES/ POSITION STATEMENTS

Medical/Professional Society	Guideline
American College of Gastroenterology	Guidelines Update: Diagnosis and Management of Celiac Disease
	(2023)
The American College of	<u>Ulcerative Colitis Practice Guidelines</u>
Gastroenterology	<u>in Adults</u> (2019)
American College of Gastroenterology	Clinical Guideline: Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (2020)
American Gastroenterological	Clinical Guidelines for Therapeutic
Association	Drug Monitoring in Inflammatory
	Bowel Disease (2017)
The American College of	<u>Practice Guidelines for Management</u>
Gastroenterology (AGA)	of Crohn's disease in adults (2018)
Consensus group on hydrogen and	Hydrogen and Methane-Based Breath
methane-based breath testing	<u>Testing in Gastrointestinal Disorders:</u>
	The North American Consensus
	(2017)
Houston Consensus Conference on	Conference on Testing for
Testing for Helicobacter pylori	Helicobacter pylori Infection in the
Infection in the United States	<u>United States</u> (2018)
European Society for Paediatric	Guidelines for Management of
Gastroenterology, Hepatology and	Helicobacter pylori Infection in
Nutrition, North American Society for	Children and Adolescents (2023)
Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology	
and Nutrition	
(ESPGHAN/NASPGHAN)	
American College of Gastroenterology	Treatment of Helicobacter pylori
(ACG)	Infection (2024)
World Gastroenterology Organization	Helicobacter pylori World
(WGO)	Gastroenterology Organization
THE LIGHT OF THE T	Global Guideline (2023)
The U.S. Preventive Services Task	Celiac Disease: Screening (2017)
Force (USPSTF)	

V. MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW

Prior authorization for certain drug, services, and procedures may or may not be required. In cases where prior authorization is required, providers will submit a request demonstrating that a drug, service, or procedure is medically necessary. For more information, please refer to the Priority Health Provider Manual.

Markers for Digestive Disorders

All tests performed at non-participating laboratories will require prior authorization; and as indicated.

VI. APPLICATION TO PRODUCTS

Coverage is subject to member's specific benefits. Group specific policy will supersede this policy when applicable.

- **❖** HMO/EPO: This policy applies to insured HMO/EPO plans.
- ❖ POS: This policy applies to insured POS plans.
- PPO: This policy applies to insured PPO plans. Consult individual plan documents as state mandated benefits may apply. If there is a conflict between this policy and a plan document, the provisions of the plan document will govern.
- ASO: For self-funded plans, consult individual plan documents. If there is a conflict between this policy and a self-funded plan document, the provisions of the plan document will govern.
- * INDIVIDUAL: For individual policies, consult the individual insurance policy. If there is a conflict between this medical policy and the individual insurance policy document, the provisions of the individual insurance policy will govern.
- ❖ MEDICARE: Coverage is determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and/or the Evidence of Coverage (EOC); if a coverage determination has not been adopted by CMS, this policy applies.
- * MEDICAID/HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN: For Medicaid/Healthy Michigan Plan members, this policy will apply. Coverage is based on medical necessity criteria being met and the appropriate code(s) from the coding section of this policy being included on the Michigan Medicaid Fee Schedule located at: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2945 42542 42543 42546 42551-159815—,00.html. If there is a discrepancy between this policy and the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual located at: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2945 5100-87572—,00.html, the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual will govern. For Medical Supplies/DME/Prosthetics and Orthotics, please refer to the Michigan Medicaid Fee Schedule to verify coverage.

V. CODING INFORMATION

ICD-10 Codes that may apply:

Iron deficiency anemia secondary to blood loss (chronic)
Anemia in other chronic diseases classified elsewhere
Crohn's disease
Ulcerative colitis
Allergic and dietetic gastroenteritis and colitis
Other specified noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis
Noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis, unspecified
Irritable bowel syndrome
Other specified functional intestinal disorders
Functional intestinal disorder, unspecified
Celiac disease
Tropical sprue
Non-celiac gluten sensitivity



K90.49	Malabsorption due to intolerance, not elsewhere classified
K90.89	Other intestinal malabsorption
K90.9	Intestinal malabsorption, unspecified
K92.1	Melena
K92.2	Gastrointestinal hemorrhage, unspecified
P78.9	Perinatal digestive system disorder, unspecified
R11.0 –	
R19.4	Change in bowel habit
R19.5	Other fecal abnormalities
R19.7	Diarrhea, unspecified
R19.8	Other specified symptoms and signs involving the digestive
1(1).0	system and abdomen
R63.8	Other symptoms and signs concerning food and fluid intake
R93.5	Abnormal findings on diagnostic imaging of other abdominal
	regions, including retroperitoneum
CPT/HO	CPCS Codes:
Codes at	re covered or not covered based on indications in this policy:
81375	HLA Class II typing, low resolution (eg, antigen equivalents); HLA-
	DRB1/3/4/5 and -DQB1
81382	HLA Class II typing, high resolution (i.e., alleles or allele groups); one locus
	(eg, HLA-DRB1, -DRB3/4/5, -DQB1, -DQA1, -DPB1, or -DPA1), each
81383	HLA Class II typing, high resolution (ie, alleles or allele groups); 1 allele or
	allele group (eg, HLA-DQB1*06:02P), each
81335	TPMT (thiopurine S-methyltransferase) (e.g., drug metabolism), gene analysis,
	common variants (e.g., *2, *3) PA through eviCore. Not covered for Medicaid
81401	Molecular pathology procedure, Level 2 (eg, 2- <u>10</u> SNPs, 1 methylated variant,
	or 1 somatic variant [typically using nonsequencing target variant analysis], or
	detection of a dynamic mutation disorder/triplet repeat) (not covered if billed
	for Crohn's Prognostic)
81479	Unlisted molecular pathology procedure (Explanatory note must accompany
	claim) (not covered if billed for IBD sig Diagnostic)
81596	Infectious disease, chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, six biochemical
	assays (ALT, A2-macroglobulin, apolipoprotein A-1, total bilirubin, GGT, and
	haptoglobin) utilizing serum, prognostic algorithm reported as scores for
	fibrosis and necroinflammatory activity in liver
82397	Chemiluminescent assay (not covered if billed for IBD sig Diagnostic)
82542	Column chromatography, includes mass spectrometry, if performed (eg,
	HPLC, LC, LC/MS, LC/MS-MS, GC, GC/MS-MS, GC/MS, HPLC/MS), non-
	drug analyte(s) not elsewhere specified, qualitative or quantitative, each
	specimen
82552	Creatine kinase (CK), (CPK); isoenzymes
82657	Enzyme activity in blood cells, cultured cells, or tissue, not elsewhere
	specified; nonradioactive substrate, each specimen Not covered for Medicaid
82784	Gammaglobulin (immunoglobulin); IgA, IgD, IgG, IgM, each
83516	Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious
	agent antigen; qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple step method
83519	Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious
00017	agent antigen; quantitative, by radioimmunoassay (e.g., RIA)
	6



Markers for Digestive Disorders

83520	Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious agent antigen; quantitative, not otherwise specified (<i>not covered if billed for</i>
02002	IBD sig Diagnostic and/or Crohn's Prognostic)
83993	Calprotectin, fecal
84433	Thiopurine S-methyltransferase (TPMT)
84620	Xylose absorption test, blood and/or urine
84999	Unlisted chemistry procedure
81599	Unlisted multianalyte assay with algorithmic analysis (Explanatory notes must
	accompany claims billed with unlisted codes.)
86021	Antibody identification; leukocyte antibodies (not covered if billed for Crohn's Prognostic)
86140	C-reactive protein (not covered if billed for IBD sig Diagnostic)
86231	Endomysial antibody (EMA), each immunoglobulin (Ig) class86
86255	Fluorescent noninfectious agent antibody; screen, each antibody (not covered if billed for IBD sig Diagnostic and/or Crohn's Prognostic)
86256	Fluorescent noninfectious agent antibody; titer, each antibody
86258	Gliadin (deamidated) (DGP) antibody, each immunoglobulin (Ig) class
86364	Tissue transglutaminase, each immunoglobulin (Ig) class
88344	Immunohistochemistry or immunocytochemistry, per specimen; each multiplex antibody stain procedure
88346	Immunofluorescence, per specimen; initial single antibody stain procedure (not covered if billed for IBD sig Diagnostic)
88350	Immunofluorescence, per specimen; each additional single antibody stain
	procedure (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (not covered if billed for IBD sig Diagnostic)
0034U	TPMT (thiopurine S-methyltransferase), NUDT15 (nudix hydroxylase 15)
	(e.g., thiopurine metabolism), gene analysis, common variants (i.e., TPMT *2, *3A, *3B, *3C, *4, *5, *6, *8, *12; NUDT15 *3, *4, *5)
0203U	Autoimmune (inflammatory bowel disease), mRNA, gene expression profiling
	by quantitative RT-PCR, <u>17</u> genes (<u>15</u> target and 2 reference genes), whole
	blood, reported as a continuous risk score and classification of inflammatory bowel disease aggressiveness
0286U	CEP72 (centrosomal protein, 72-KDa), NUDT15 (nudix hydrolase 15) and
02000	TPMT (thiopurine S-methyltransferase) (eg, drug metabolism) gene analysis,
	common variants
0430U	Gastroenterology, malabsorption evaluation of alpha-1-antitrypsin,
04300	calprotectin, pancreatic elastase and reducing substances, feces, quantitative
	(Not Covered)
0514U	Gastroenterology (irritable bowel disease [IBD]), immunoassay for quantitative
	determination of adalimumab (ADL) levels in venous serum in patients
	undergoing adalimumab therapy, results reported as a numerical value as
	micrograms per milliliter (μg/mL)
0515U	Gastroenterology (irritable bowel disease [IBD]), immunoassay for quantitative
	determination of infliximab (IFX) levels in venous serum in patients
	undergoing infliximab therapy, results reported as a numerical value as
	micrograms per milliliter (μg/mL)

Breath Tests

ICD-10 Codes



Markers for Digestive Disorders

Diagnosis codes not covered:

A04.9 - Bacterial intestinal infection, unspecified

K52.9 - Noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis, unspecified

K59.04 - Chronic idiopathic constipation

R63.4 - Abnormal weight loss

K90.9 - Intestinal malabsorption, unspecified

Z00.00 - Encounter for general adult medical examination without abnormal findings

CPT/HCPCS Codes:

91065 Breath hydrogen or methane test (e.g., for detection of lactase deficiency, fructose intolerance, bacterial overgrowth, or oro-cecal gastrointestinal transit)

VI. REFERENCES

- 1. Adriaanse M, Leffler DA. Serum markers in the clinical management of celiac disease. Dig Dis. 2015;33(2):236-243. Epub 2015 Apr 22. PMID: 25925929
- 2. Al Hadithy AF, de Boer NK, Derijks LJ, et al. Thiopurines in inflammatory bowel disease: Pharmacogenetics, therapeutic drug monitoring and clinical recommendations. Dig Liver Dis. 2005; 37(4):282-297.
- 3. Anderson RP. Coeliac disease. Aust Fam Physician. 2005; 34(4):239-242.
- 4. Bai JC et al. World Gastroenterology Organisation Global Guidelines: Celiac Disease February 2017. J Clin Gastroenterol. 2017 Oct;51(9):755-768. doi: 10.1097/MCG.0000000000000919. Erratum in: J Clin Gastroenterol. 2019 Apr;53(4):313. PMID: 28877080.
- 5. Bernstein CN, Eliakim A, Fedail S, et al. World Gastroenterology Organisation global guidelines inflammatory bowel disease: update August 2015. J Clin Gastroenterol. 2016;50(10):803-818.
- 6. Bhattacharya A, Travis D, Osterman MT, et al. Supratherapeutic infliximab levels do not predict risk of short-term complications in adults with crohn's disease. J Clin Gastroenterol. 2023;57(1):66-73.
- 7. Bossuyt X. Serologic markers in inflammatory bowel disease. Clin Chem. 2006; 52(2):171-181.
- 8. Bossuyt P, Pouillon L, Claeys S, D'Haens S, Hoefkens E, Strubbe B, Marichal D, Peeters H. Ultra-proactive therapeutic drug monitoring of infliximab based on point of care testing in inflammatory bowel disease: results of a pragmatic trial. J Crohns Colitis. 2022;16(2):199-206.
- 9. Bouden S, Laadhar L, Soua J, et al. No correlation between anti-drug antibodies and therapeutic response in tunisian patients with chronic inflammatory diseases treated by tnf blockers. Curr Rheumatol Rev. 2024;20(4):435-443.
- 10. Cao WT, Huang R, Jiang KF, Qiao XH, Wang JJ, Fan YH, Xu Y. Predictive value of blood concentration of biologics on endoscopic inactivity in inflammatory bowel disease: a systematic review. World J Gastroenterol. 2021;27(9):886-907.

- 11. Catanzaro R, Sciuto M, Marotta F. Lactose intolerance: An update on its pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment. Nutr Res. 2021 May;89:23-34. doi: 10.1016/j.nutres.2021.02.003. Epub 2021 Mar 21. PMID: 33887513.
- 12. Chamaillard M, Iacob R, Desreumaux P, Colombel JF. Advances and perspectives in the genetics of inflammatory bowel diseases. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2006; 4(2):143-151.
- 13. Chanchlani N, Lin S, Bewshea C, et al. Mechanisms and management of loss of response to anti-tnf therapy for patients with crohn's disease: 3-year data from the prospective, multicentre pants cohort study. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2024;9(6):521-538
- 14. Cheifetz AS, Abreu MT, Afif W, et al. A comprehensive literature review and expert consensus statement on therapeutic drug monitoring of biologics in inflammatory bowel disease. Am J Gastroenterol. 2021;116(10):2014-2025.
- 15. Devlin, SM, Dubinsky, MC. Determination of serologic and genetic markers aid in the determination of the clinical course and severity of patients with IBD. Inflamm Bowel Dis 2008; 14:125.
- 16. Denis MA, Reenaers C, Fontaine F, et al. Assessment of endoscopic activity index and biological inflammatory markers in clinically active Crohn's disease with normal C-reactive protein serum level. Inflamm Bowel Dis. 2007; 13(9):1100-1105.
- 17. D'Haens G, Vermeire S, Lambrecht G, et al. Increasing infliximab dose based on symptoms, biomarkers, and serum drug concentrations does not increase clinical, endoscopic, and corticosteroid-free remission in patients with active luminal Crohn's disease. Gastroenterology. 2018;154(5):1343-1351.e1341
- 18. D'Incà R, Dal Pont E, Di Leo V, et al. Can calprotectin predict relapse risk in inflammatory bowel disease? Am J Gastroenterol. 2008; 103(8):2007-2014.
- 19. Dotan, I. Serologic markers in inflammatory bowel disease: tools for better diagnosis and disease stratification. Expert Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol 2007; 1:265.
- 20. Dubinsky MC, Reyes E, Ofman J, et al. A cost-effectiveness analysis of alternative disease management strategies in patients with Crohn's disease treated with azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine. Am J Gastroenterol. 2005; 100:1-9.
- 21. Economou M, Trikalinos TA, Loizou KT, et al. Differential effects of NOD2 variants on Crohn's disease risk and phenotype in diverse populations: A metaanalysis. Am J Gastroenterol. 2004;99(12):2393-2404
- 22. Fernandes SR, Bernardo S, Simões C, Gonçalves AR, Valente A, Baldaia C, Santos, PM, Correia LA, Marinho RT. Proactive infliximab drug monitoring is superior to conventional management in inflammatory bowel disease. Inflamm Bowel Dis. 2020;26(2):263-270.
- 23. Ferrante, M, Henckaerts, L, Joossens, M, et al. New serological markers in inflammatory bowel disease are associated with complicated disease behaviour. Gut 2007; 56:1394.
- 24. Feuerstein JD et al. American Gastroenterological Association Institute Guideline on Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Gastroenterology. 2017; 153 (3): 827-834.



- 25. Ford AC, Chey WD, Talley NJ, et al. Yield of diagnostic tests for celiac disease in individuals with symptoms suggestive of irritable bowel syndrome. Arch Intern Med. 2009; 169(7):651-658.
- 26. Gemelli Biotech. <u>Triosmart</u> (Accessed January 27, 2025).
- 27. Gisbert JP, McNicholl AG. Questions and answers on the role of faecal calprotectin as a biological marker in inflammatory bowel disease. Dig Liver Dis. 2009; 41(1):56-66.
- 28. Hadithi M, von Blomberg BM, Crusius JB, et al. Accuracy of serologic tests and HLA-DQ typing for diagnosing celiac disease. Ann Intern Med. 2007; 147(5):294-302.
- 29. Hill ID, Dirks MH, Liptak GS, et al. Guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of celiac disease in children: Recommendations of the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2005; 40(1):1-19.
- 30. Hoerter NA, Shannahan SE, Suarez J, et al. Diagnostic yield of isolated deamidated gliadin peptide antibody elevation for celiac disease. Dig Dis Sci 2017;62(5):1272–6.
- 31. Holland K, Bennett WE, Slaven JE, Collier J, Waltz G, Pfefferkorn M. Proactive measurement of infliximab drug levels in children with Crohn's disease. Ann Gastroenterol. 2022;35(1):56-62.
- 32. Hyams, J. et al. Safety and Efficacy of Adalimumab for Moderate to Severe Crohn's Disease in Children, Gastroenterology 2012; 143:365–374.
- 33. Kamperidis N, Middleton P, Tyrrell T, Stasinos I, Arebi N. Impact of therapeutic drug level monitoring on outcomes of patients with Crohn's disease treated with infliximab: real world data from a retrospective single centre cohort study. Frontline Gastroenterol. 2019;10(4):330-336.
- 34. Kaukinen K, Partanen J, Maki M, Collin P. HLA-DQ typing in the diagnosis of celiac disease. Am J Gastroenterol. 2002; 97(3):695-699.
- 35. Kelly, Ciarán. Diagnosis of celiac disease in adults. In: UpToDate, Connor RF (Ed), Wolters Kluwer. Last updated Feb 14, 2023 (Accessed on April 4, 2024)
- 36. Kim ES, Kwon Y, Choe YH, Kim MJ. Free antibodies-to-infliximab are biomarker for predicting the effect of dose intensification in pediatric crohn's disease patients with secondary loss of response. *Therap Adv Gastroenterol.* 2023;16:17562848231170948.
- 37. Leffler DA, Kelly CP. Update on the evaluation and diagnosis of celiac disease. Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol. 2006; 6(3):191-196.
- 38. Lewis NR, Scott BB. Meta-analysis: Deamidated gliadin peptide antibody and tissue transglutaminase antibody compared as screening tests for coeliac disease. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2010; 31(1):73-81.
- 39. Lichtenstein GR, Abreu MT, Cohen R, Tremaine W. American Gastroenterological Association Institute Medical Position Statement on corticosteroids, immunomodulators, and infliximab in inflammatory bowel disease. Gastroenterol. 2006; 130:935-939.
- 40. Lichtenstein GR, Hanauer SB, Sandborn WJ, and the Practice Parameters Committee of the American College of Gastroenterology. Management of Crohn's disease in adults. Am J Gastroenterol. 2009; 104(2):465-483.

- 41. Lichtenstein GR, Loftus EV, Isaacs KL, Regueiro MD, Gerson LB, Sands BE. ACG Clinical Guideline: Management of Crohn's Disease in Adults. Am J Gastroenterol. 2018 Apr;113(4):481-517. doi: 10.1038/ajg.2018.27. Epub 2018 Mar 27. Erratum in: Am J Gastroenterol. 2018 Jul;113(7):1101. PMID: 29610508.
- 42. Liu E, Rewers M, Eisenbarth GS. Genetic testing: Who should do the testing and what is the role of genetic testing in the setting of celiac disease? Gastroenterology. 2005; 128(4 Suppl 1):S33-S37.
- 43. Marton A, Xue X, Szilagyi A. Meta-analysis: the diagnostic accuracy of lactose breath hydrogen or lactose tolerance tests for predicting the North European lactase polymorphism C/T-13910. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2012 Feb;35(4):429-40. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2036.2011.04962.x. Epub 2011 Dec 28. PMID: 22211845.
- 44. Mokrowiecka A, Daniel P, Słomka M, et al. Clinical utility of serological markers in inflammatory bowel disease. Hepatogastroenterology. 2009; 56(89):162-166.
- 45. Mow, WS, Vasiliauskas, EA, Lin, YC, et al. Association of antibody responses to microbial antigens and complications of small bowel Crohn's disease. Gastroenterology 2004; 126:414.
- 46. McGowan KE, Lyon ME, Butzner JD. Celiac disease and IgA deficiency: Complications of serological testing approaches encountered in the clinic. Clin Chem. 2008; 54(7):1203-1209.
- 47. Megiorni F, Mora B, Bonamico M, et al. A rapid and sensitive method to detect specific human lymphocyte antigen (HLA) class II alleles associated with celiac disease. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2008; 46(2):193-196.
- 48. Murphy, SJ, Kornbluth, A. Serologic and genetic markers do not aid in the determination of the clinical course and severity of patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Inflamm Bowel Dis 2008; 14:129.
- 49. Nandiwada SL, Tebo AE. Testing for antireticulin antibodies in patients with celiac disease is obsolete: a review of recommendations for serologic screening and the literature. Clin Vaccine Immunol. 2013 Apr;20(4):447-51.
- 50. National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease. Ulcerative Colitis. Available at https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/digestive-diseases/ulcerative-colitis (Accessed December 31, 2024).
- 51. Papamichael K, Chachu KA, Vajravelu RK, Vaughn BP, Ni J, Osterman MT, Cheifetz AS. Improved long-term outcomes of patients with inflammatory bowel disease receiving proactive compared with reactive monitoring of serum concentrations of infliximab. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2017;15(10):1580-1588.e1583.
- 52. Papamichael K, Cheifetz AS, Melmed GY, et al. Appropriate Therapeutic Drug Monitoring of Biologic Agents for Patients With Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2019 Aug;17(9):1655-1668.e3. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2019.03.037. Epub 2019 Mar 27. PMID: 30928454; PMCID: PMC6661210.
- 53. Pierik M, Rutgeerts P, Vlietinck R, Vermeire S. Pharmacogenetics in inflammatory bowel disease. World J Gastroenterol. 2006; 12(23):3657-3667.



- 54. Pimentel M, Saad RJ, Long MD, Rao SSC. ACG Clinical Guideline: Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth. Am J Gastroenterol. 2020 Feb;115(2):165-178. doi: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000000501. PMID: 32023228.
- 55. Prause C, Ritter M, Probst C, et al. Antibodies against deamidated gliadin as new and accurate biomarkers of childhood coeliac disease. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2009; 49(1):52-58.
- 56. Rashtak S, Murray JA. Tailored testing for celiac disease. Ann Intern Med. 2007; 147(5):339-341.
- 57. Rezaie A, Buresi M, Lembo A, Lin H, McCallum R, Rao S, Schmulson M, Valdovinos M, Zakko S, Pimentel M. Hydrogen and Methane-Based Breath Testing in Gastrointestinal Disorders: The North American Consensus. Am J Gastroenterol. 2017 May;112(5):775-784. doi: 10.1038/ajg.2017.46. Epub 2017 Mar 21. PMID: 28323273; PMCID: PMC5418558.
- 58. Ricciuto A, Dhaliwal J, Walters TD, Griffiths AM, Church PC. Clinical outcomes with therapeutic drug monitoring in inflammatory bowel disease: a systematic review with meta-analysis. J Crohns Colitis. 2018;12(11):1302-1315.
- Rubin DT, Ananthakrishnan AN, Siegel CA, Sauer BG, Long MD. ACG Clinical Guideline: Ulcerative Colitis in Adults. Am J Gastroenterol. 2019 Mar;114(3):384-413. PMID: 30840605.
- 60. Rubio-Tapia A, Hill ID, Semrad C, Kelly CP, Greer KB, Limketkai BN, Lebwohl B. American College of Gastroenterology Guidelines Update: Diagnosis and Management of Celiac Disease. Am J Gastroenterol. 2023 Jan 1;118(1):59-76. doi: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000000075. Epub 2022 Sep 21. PMID: 36602836.
- 61. Setty M, Hormaza L, Guandalini S. Celiac disease: Risk assessment, diagnosis, and monitoring. Mol Diagn Ther. 2008; 12(5):289-298.
- 62. Teml A, Schaeffeler E, Herrlinger KR, et al. Thiopurine treatment in inflammatory bowel disease: Clinical pharmacology and implication of pharmacogenetically guided dosing. Clin Pharmacokinet. 2007; 46(3):187-208.
- 63. US Preventive Services Task Force; Bibbins-Domingo K, Grossman DC, Curry SJ, Barry MJ, Davidson KW, Doubeni CA, Ebell M, Epling JW Jr, Herzstein J, Kemper AR, Krist AH, Kurth AE, Landefeld CS, Mangione CM, Phipps MG, Silverstein M, Simon MA, Tseng CW. Screening for Celiac Disease: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. JAMA. 2017 Mar 28;317(12):1252-1257. doi: 10.1001/jama.2017.1462. PMID: 28350936.
- 64. Vécsei AK, Graf UB, Vogelsang H. Follow-up of adult celiac patients: Which noninvasive test reflects mucosal status most reliably? Endoscopy. 2009; 41(2):123-128.
- 65. van der Windt DA, Jellema P, Mulder CJ, et al. Diagnostic testing for celiac disease among patients with abdominal symptoms: A systematic review. JAMA. 2010; 303(17):1738-1746.

Markers for Digestive Disorders

- 66. von Stein P, Lofberg R, Kuznetsov NV, et al. Multigene analysis can discriminate between ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, and irritable bowel syndrome. Gastroenterology. 2008;134(7):1869-2154.
- 67. Villalta D, Tonutti E, Prause C, et al. IgG antibodies against deamidated gliadin peptides for diagnosis of celiac disease in patients with IgA deficiency. Clin Chem. 2010; 56(3):464-468.
- 68. Waljee AK, Joyce JC, Wang S, et al. Algorithms outperform metabolite tests in predicting response of patients with inflammatory bowel disease to thiopurines. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2010;8(2):143-150

H. Pylori Testing

- 69. Patel SK, Pratap CB, Jain AK, Gulati AK, Nath G. Diagnosis of Helicobacter pylori: what should be the gold standard? World J Gastroenterol. 2014 Sep 28;20(36):12847-59. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i36.12847. PMID: 25278682; PMCID: PMC4177467.
- 70. El-Serag, H. B., Kao, J. Y., Kanwal, F., Gilger, M., LoVecchio, F., Moss, S. F., Crowe, S. E., Elfant, A., Haas, T., Hapke, R. J., & Graham, D. Y. (2018). Houston Consensus Conference on Testing for Helicobacter pylori Infection in the United States. *Clinical gastroenterology and hepatology: the official clinical practice journal of the American Gastroenterological Association*, 16(7), 992–1002.e6. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cgh.2018.03.013
- 71. Homan, M., Jones, N. L., Bontems, P., Carroll, M. W., Czinn, S. J., Gold, B. D., Goodman, K., Harris, P. R., Jerris, R., Kalach, N., Kori, M., Megraud, F., Rowland, M., Tavares, M., & on behalf of ESPGHAN/NASPGHAN (2024). Updated joint ESPGHAN/NASPGHAN guidelines for management of Helicobacter pylori infection in children and adolescents (2023). *Journal of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition*, 79(3), 758–785. https://doi.org/10.1002/jpn3.12314
- 72. Chey, W. D., Howden, C. W., Moss, S. F., Morgan, D. R., Greer, K. B., Grover, S., & Shah, S. C. (2024). ACG Clinical Guideline: Treatment of Helicobacter pylori Infection. *The American journal of gastroenterology*, 119(9), 1730–1753. https://doi.org/10.14309/ajg.000000000002968
- 73. Katelaris, P., Hunt, R., Bazzoli, F., Cohen, H., Fock, K. M., Gemilyan, M., Malfertheiner, P., Mégraud, F., Piscoya, A., Quach, D., Vakil, N., Vaz Coelho, L. G., LeMair, A., & Melberg, J. (2023). Helicobacter pylori World Gastroenterology Organization Global Guideline. *Journal of clinical gastroenterology*, 57(2), 111–126. https://doi.org/10.1097/MCG.000000000001719

AMA CPT Copyright Statement:

All Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes, descriptions, and other data are copyrighted by the American Medical Association.



Markers for Digestive Disorders

This document is for informational purposes only. It is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits, or contract. Receipt of benefits is subject to satisfaction of all terms and conditions of coverage. Eligibility and benefit coverage are determined in accordance with the terms of the member's plan in effect as of the date services are rendered. Priority Health's medical policies are developed with the assistance of medical professionals and are based upon a review of published and unpublished information including, but not limited to, current medical literature, guidelines published by public health and health research agencies, and community medical practices in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. Because medical practice, information, and technology are constantly changing, Priority Health reserves the right to review and update its medical policies at its discretion.

Priority Health's medical policies are intended to serve as a resource to the plan. They are not intended to limit the plan's ability to interpret plan language as deemed appropriate. Physicians and other providers are solely responsible for all aspects of medical care and treatment, including the type, quality, and levels of care and treatment they choose to provide.

The name "Priority Health" and the term "plan" mean Priority Health, Priority Health Managed Benefits, Inc., Priority Health Insurance Company and Priority Health Government Programs, Inc.