



**Subject:** Specimen Provenance Testing in Laboratory  
and Surgical Pathology\*

**Effective Date:** January 27, 2015

**Department(s):** Utilization Management

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**Policy:** Specimen provenance testing in surgical specimens is **NOT** reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

**Objective:** To ensure proper and consistent reimbursement.

**Procedure:** Requests for coverage of specimen provenance testing in surgical specimens via any methodology including short tandem repeat analysis (such as the know error® DNA Specimen Provenance Assay (DSPA, Strand Diagnostics™; Indianapolis, IN) will be denied, as it is not considered medically necessary. Due to lack of specific coding, CPT codes 81479 or 84999 may be submitted for this procedure. This testing is a laboratory quality control procedure and in itself does not provide a diagnosis.

References:

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Marberger M, McConnell JD, Fowler I, et al. Biopsy misidentification identified by DNA profiling in a large multicenter trial. *J Clin Oncol*. 2011; 29(13):1744-1749

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\*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.