Subject: Tumor Chemotherapy Sensitivity and Resistance Assays*

Effective Date: July 22, 2008

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Ex vivo assays of the sensitivity or resistance of tumor tissue to chemotherapeutic agents are not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to limit reimbursement to modalities for which there is adequate support in peer-reviewed literature.

Procedure: Requests for reimbursement for ex vivo assays of the sensitivity or resistance of tumor tissue to chemotherapeutic agents will be denied as there is not as yet a satisfactory body of peer-reviewed literature that substantiates their validity or their impact on improved patient management or health outcomes. They are thus deemed experimental, investigational and unproven.

This policy applies to ChemoFx®, MiCk® (microculture kinetic assays of apoptosis), HDRA® (histoculture drug resistance assay) as well as other assays of the sensitivity or resistance of tumor tissue to chemotherapeutic agents.

References


Herzog TJ, Krivak TC, Fader AN, Coleman RL. Chemosensitivity testing with ChemoFx and overall survival in primary ovarian cancer. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2010; 203(1):68.e1-6.(Jul)


Kubot T, Weisenthal L. Chemotherapy sensitivity and resistance testing: to be “standard” or to be individualized, that is the question. *Gastric Cancer* 2006;9(2):82-87 (Jan)


Drafted By/Date: BFisher, MD 05/30/08
Approved By/Date: QM Committee 07/22/08
Revised By/Date: BFisher, MD 01/24/10
Approved By/Date: QM Committee 02/23/10
Reviewed without Revision By/Date: MMcNeil, MD 03/06/12
Approved By/Date: QM Committee 3/27/12
Revised By/Date: MMcNeil, MD 07/14/15
Approved By/Date: QM Committee 7/28/15

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