



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), multifractal analysis of tumor microscopic images, Chemo ID, as well as other assays of the sensitivity or resistance of tumor tissue to chemotherapeutic agents.

CPT 81535, 81536 (specific to gynecologic tumors); other CPT Codes include unlisted immunology and microbiology procedure-86849, 87999; unlisted miscellaneous pathology test-89420.

References

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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.