



Western States Genetic Services Collaborative

**Medicaid Coverage of Genetic Services
in Western States and Guam**

WSGSC Reimbursement Work Group

**2011 Medicaid and Genetic Services
Regional Meeting**
HRSA Grant No.U22MC03961

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Process

- Work group wrote 19-question interview instrument
- Interview questions – Medicaid policy on reimbursing types of genetic services
- Work group identified state Medicaid key informants
- Work group members interviewed key informants or supplied information based upon their professional experience

Sources

- AK – Operations Manager, Medicaid Services
- CA – Medical Consultant, Dept of Health Care Services, Medical Policy Section
- GM – Human Resources Administrator, Public Welfare Division
- HI – Medical geneticist, Physician Coding Supervisor, Hawaii Pacific Health
- OR (2) – Div of Medical Assistance Policy Unit, DHHS, and OR Genetic and CSHCN Program Consultant
- WA (3) – Clinical Utilization Management Supervisor; Medicaid Director; DOH Genetic Services Section Head

Question	Yes	No
managed care contracts or memorandum of understandings in place with insurance companies that serve Medicaid managed care client?	CA HI OR WA	AK GM
Does Medicaid have clients in fee-for-service programs?	AK CA HI OR WA	
Are the current fee schedules available for review?	AK CA GM OR WA	HI

- **Non-Medicaid parent's test covered to aid child DX?**

- No - AK CA HI OR WA
- GM - most parents of enrolled children are Medicaid eligible

Ongoing medical management by medical geneticist?

AK – yes

CA – may be restrictions, depends upon service, must be “medically necessary”

GM – “medically necessary”

OR – Managed care plans may deny if not deemed “medically necessary”

HI, WA – no info

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- Physician time to review case?
 - No-AK HI OR WA
 - CA-CPT 99358, 99359
 - GM-paid if documented and justified
- Recognize extended service codes?
 - AK-Eval and mgmt
 - GM-document and justify
 - HI – 99354-57, \$66.64
 - WA-No
 - CA, OR-no data

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- **CPT 96040 (genetic counseling) covered?**
 - Yes-WA \$25/30 minutes
 - No-AK CA GM HI
 - OR-non-licensed providers may not be paid, could be paid as a facilities fee

CPT code 99366-68 (medical team conference) covered?

- No – AK CA HI OR
- Yes – GM if med necessary; WA 99367 listed with minimum of \$35.79 maximum of \$48.24

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Telehealth services covered?

- AK – yes if provided by ANP, PA, physician
- CA – yes with limitations
- GM – physician consultations only
- OR – if covered in-person
- WA – all but on-line medical evaluation (99441-443 \$?-23.79)
- No - HI

Genetic tests covered if lab out of state?

- **Alaska** - Paid at Medicare rate as in fee schedule as long as lab is enrolled.
- **California** - test in question must be a covered benefit, laboratory provider must be enrolled provider.
- **Guam** - Genetic testing covered only for children if medically necessary, for definitive diagnosis and treatment.
- **Hawaii** - Prior authorization required. Molecular genetic tests are generally reimbursed at low rate, cytogenetic tests at relatively higher rate.
- **Oregon** - Laboratory must be an enrolled DMAP (Division of Medical Assistance Programs) provider.
- **Washington** - Either the laboratory applies and is granted core provider status in WA or the facility ordering the test pays the lab and then bills WA Medicaid for any reimbursement. Few hospitals/facilities willing to bill Medicaid.

How do doctors learn about Medicaid coverage of genetic services?

- Alaska - By contacting Medicaid. No prior authorization process.
- California - Via the provider manual. Medicaid notifies providers of changes in monthly provider bulletins.
- Hawaii - Mailings.
- Oregon - Guidelines for coverage of genetic evaluation, genetic counseling, and genetic testing for breast and ovarian cancer, colorectal and endometrial cancer, mental retardation, and a non-prenatal genetic testing algorithm are included in the Prioritized list of Health Services posted on the internet. Information about the guidelines is posted on the Oregon Genetics Program web site.
 - The Oregon Genetics Program e-mailed medical geneticists and genetic counselors regarding recent changes in Medicaid coverage.
 - Physicians who serve patients with Medicaid understand clinical diagnostic evaluations in general are covered.
 - At least one Oregon medical geneticist has reported to Oregon Genetics Program that information about what Medicaid covers is difficult to find.
- Washington - Medicaid publishes billing instructions that include genetic testing (typically by codes)

Does Medicaid have specific policies regs or practice guidelines related to genetic services?

- Alaska –in process of developing policies and procedures in this area
- California-Yes, online
- Hawaii - No. public health genetics experience - requesting prior authorization, coverage varies among managed care plans and health insurance plans. “When I have asked Medicaid managed care plans for genetic services policies they said none available. I have been told that nurse (or sometimes supervising physician) bases decision (approval/denial) simply on their review of the specific request.”
- Oregon - guidelines for some genetic services: genetic testing and genetic counseling for breast/ovarian and colorectal/endometrial cancers, evaluation of children with mental retardation and developmental delay, an algorithm for covering other genetic tests. Oregon Health Services Commission (HSC) reviewing changes recommended by the HSC Genetics Advisory Committee on 1-13-11.
- Washington – Prenatal diagnosis genetic counseling and physician related services available on-line