


<b>MEDICAL POLICY</b>	<b>Prostate: Protein Biomarkers and Genetic Testing (All Lines of Business Except Medicare)</b>
<b>Effective Date: 4/1/2021</b>   <div style="text-align: right;">4/1/2021</div>	Medical Policy Number: 96
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Medical Officer Date	

**See Policy CPT CODE section below for any prior authorization requirements**

**SCOPE:**

Providence Health Plan, Providence Health Assurance, Providence Plan Partners, and Ayn Health Solutions as applicable (referred to individually as “Company” and collectively as “Companies”).

**APPLIES TO:**

All lines of business except Medicare

**BENEFIT APPLICATION**

Medicaid Members

*Oregon:* Services requested for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members follow the OHP Prioritized List and Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) as the primary resource for coverage determinations. Medical policy criteria below may be applied when there are no criteria available in the OARs and the OHP Prioritized List.

**POLICY CRITERIA**

- I. The use of molecular assays, including protein biomarkers and genetic testing, are considered **investigational and are not covered** for screening, detection, diagnosis and management of prostate cancer. These assays include, but are not limited to:
  - A. 4Kscore
  - B. APIFINY® Score
  - C. ConfirmMDx Epigenetic Molecular Assay
  - D. Decipher® Prostate Cancer Classifier Assay
  - E. EpiScore
  - F. ExoDx prostate (also known as IntelliScore)
  - G. Mi-Prostate score (also known as Michigan Prostate Score or MIPS)
  - H. NeoLAB Prostate Liquid Biopsy
  - I. Oncotype DX® Prostate Cancer Assay
  - J. Oncotype DX® AR-V7 Nucleus Detect Test

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>K. Prolaris®</li> <li>L. Progenesa® PCA3 Assay</li> <li>M. ProMark</li> <li>N. Prostate Health Index (PHI)</li> <li>O. SelectMDX</li> <li>P. UroSeq®</li> </ul> <p>Link to <a href="#">Policy Summary</a></p>
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**CPT CODES**

All Lines of Business Except Medicare	
Not Covered	
0011M	Oncology, prostate cancer, mRNA expression assay of 12 genes (10 content and 2 housekeeping), RT-PCR test utilizing blood plasma and/or urine, algorithms to predict high-grade prostate cancer risk
0005U	Oncology (prostate) gene expression profile by real-time RT-PCR of 3 genes (ERG, PCA3, and SPDEF), urine, algorithm reported as risk score
0021U	Oncology (prostate), detection of 8 autoantibodies (ARF 6, NKX3-1, 5'-UTR-BMI1, CEP 164, 3'-UTR-Ropporin, Desmocollin, AURKAIP-1, CSNK2A2),
0047U	Oncology (prostate), mRNA, gene expression profiling by real-time RT-PCR of 17 genes (12 content and 5 housekeeping), utilizing formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue, algorithm reported as a risk score
0053U	Oncology (prostate cancer), FISH analysis of 4 genes (ASAP1, HDAC9, CHD1 and PTEN), needle biopsy specimen, algorithm reported as probability of higher tumor grade
0113U	Oncology (prostate), measurement of PCA3 and TMPRSS2-ERG in urine and PSA in serum following prostatic massage, by RNA amplification and fluorescence-based detection, algorithm reported as risk score
0133U	Hereditary prostate cancer–related disorders, targeted mRNA sequence analysis panel (11 genes) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
81313	PCA3/KLK3 (prostate cancer antigen 3 [non-protein coding]/kallikrein-related peptidase 3 [prostate specific antigen]) ratio (eg, prostate cancer)
81539	Oncology (high-grade prostate cancer), biochemical assay of four proteins (Total PSA, Free PSA, Intact PSA, and human kallikrein-2 [hK2]), utilizing plasma or serum, prognostic algorithm reported as a probability score
81541	Oncology (prostate), mRNA gene expression profiling by real-time RT-PCR of 46 genes (31 content and 15 housekeeping), utilizing formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue, algorithm reported as a disease-specific mortality risk score

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81542	Oncology (prostate), mRNA, microarray gene expression profiling of 22 content genes, utilizing formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue, algorithm reported as metastasis risk score
81551	Oncology (prostate), promoter methylation profiling by real-time PCR of 3 genes (GSTP1, APC, RASSF1), utilizing formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue, algorithm reported as a likelihood of prostate cancer detection on repeat biopsy
<b>Unlisted Codes</b> All unlisted codes will be reviewed for medical necessity, correct coding, and pricing at the claim level. If an unlisted code is billed related to services addressed in this policy then it will be <b>denied as not covered</b> .	
81479	Unlisted molecular pathology procedure
81599	Unlisted multianalyte assay with algorithmic analysis
84999	Unlisted chemistry code

## DESCRIPTION

### Prostate Cancer

In the United States, prostate cancer is the second most common cancer (after skin cancers) in men. Approximately 1 in 9 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime, and it is more common in older men and men of African American ethnicity. In 2018, it is estimated that 164,690 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 29,430 will die of the disease in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Although almost all prostate cancers are adenocarcinomas, there are several other types of prostate cancer, including sarcomas, small cell carcinomas, neuroendocrine tumors and transitional cell carcinomas.<sup>1</sup> Prostate cancer is a heterogeneous disease with tumors ranging from indolent to very aggressive. Survival differs according to disease stage at diagnosis. The majority of prostate cancers are discovered prior to becoming metastatic and therefore the 5-year relative survival rate is close to 100%. However, men with metastatic disease have a 5-year survival rate of approximately 30%.<sup>2</sup>

### Prostate Cancer Detection

Prostate cancer is commonly identified in asymptomatic men by routine screening that includes measuring levels of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in blood and via digital rectal examination (DRE). When initial testing results are suspicious for prostate cancer, a 12-core prostate biopsy is typically performed using a transrectal ultrasound (TRUS).<sup>3</sup>

Although biopsy is considered the standard to diagnose prostate cancer, 20-30% may yield false negative results due, in part, to poor tissue sampling during biopsy that has missed localized lesions. As a result, a large proportion of patients with an initial negative biopsy may undergo repeat biopsy if there is a suspicion of prostate cancer based on other clinical factors. Therefore, confirming the presence or

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absence of prostate cancer, as well as discriminating indolent from aggressive disease, are areas of research and clinical interest.<sup>4</sup> To address this need, a variety of blood- and urine-based protein biomarker and genetic tests are currently being developed in an attempt to provide additional information for identifying high-risk patients who may require treatment, as well as low-risk patients who may forego biopsy.

Prognosis and Treatment Decisions

Once a patient receives a diagnosis of prostate cancer, decisions about treatment are based on several factors including: tumor grade, disease stage, and predictions about the future behavior of the tumor, patient age, general health, and preferences.<sup>5</sup> Elevated PSA in the blood and tumor grade measured by histopathological analysis are two common prognostic indicators considered when making treatment decisions. However, elevated PSA levels may also indicate certain benign conditions. More recently, new genetic tests performed on prostate tissue samples are proposed to aid in stratifying patients according to prostate cancer aggressiveness and aid in treatment decisions.

New molecular assays include protein biomarker quantification and several different types of genetic tests, including DNA methylation assays and RNA-based expression assays. Examples of available prostate cancer molecular assays are as follows:

**Molecular Assays for Prostate Cancer Detection**

4Kscore Test (OPKO)

According to the manufacturer, the 4Kscore Test assays four prostate-specific kallikrein proteins (total PSA, free PSA, intact PSA and hK2) from blood and combines these results with clinical components (prior biopsy status, age and DRE) in an algorithm that calculates the individual patient’s percent risk for aggressive prostate cancer. The 4Kscore can be used prior to biopsy, or after a negative biopsy and may predict the probability of distant metastasis.<sup>6</sup>

The test is intended to be used as a supplement to aid in the decision of whether or not to perform a biopsy, and should not be used in isolation as a stand-alone test. The company does not recommend a percent risk generated by the 4Kscore test by which to base decisions on, but indicates that the physician select their own risk level and integrate it in with other information (health status, medical history, family history of prostate cancer, PSA history, etc.) to make decisions regarding prostate biopsy.<sup>6</sup>

The test is not indicated in men with:

- “With a previous diagnosis of prostate cancer
- That is younger than 40 or older than 80 years of age
- That has received a DRE in the previous 96 hours (4 days) before phlebotomy. A DRE performed after the phlebotomy is acceptable

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- That has received 5-alpha reductase inhibitor (5-ARI) therapy, such as Avodart® (dutasteride) or Proscar® (finasteride), within the previous six (6) months
- That has undergone any procedure or therapy to treat symptomatic BPH or any invasive, urologic procedure that may be associated with a secondary PSA elevation prior to phlebotomy within the previous six (6) months”

ConfirmMDx Test (MDxHealth)

ConfirmMDx is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based genetic test that quantifies DNA methylation on the promoters of three prostate cancer –associated genes (GSTP1, APC and RASSF1) using core biopsy formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue samples. This assay is intended “to aid in the detection of occult prostate cancer on previously biopsied, histopathologically negative tissue.”<sup>7</sup>

EpiScore

EpiScore is an algorithm that quantifies the relative DNA methylation intensities of the same three genes as the ConfirmMDx tests described above (GSTP1, RASSF1, and APC) from prostate biopsy tissue. The test is proposed as a method to compensate for biopsy under-sampling and improve risk stratification at the time of diagnosis. This test may help in early detection of aggressive prostate cancer.<sup>8</sup>

ExoDx Prostate (also known as IntelliScore) (Exosome Diagnostics)

ExoDx Prostate is a urine-based assay that extracts RNA extract from exosomes, which are microvesicles that are released from their cell of origin into the urine. The assay measures the RNA expression of three genes (PCA3, ERG, and SPDEF) and is designed to be used along with PSA and other factors (age, race and family history) to help enable physicians to predict whether a patient presenting for an initial biopsy does not have high-grade prostate cancer (Gleason grade 7 and higher) and could potentially avoid an initial biopsy. It is intended for use in patients older than 50 years of age with no prior biopsy and PSA levels between 2-10ng/ml.<sup>3,9</sup>

Mi-Prostate score (also known as Michigan Prostate Score or MIPS) (MLabs, University of Michigan)

The Mi-Prostate score assay is a two-sample assay that combines total serum PSA and urine-based expression of the PCA3 gene and the TMPRSS2:ERG fusion gene (thought to be a genetic alteration thought occurs early in prostate cancer development).<sup>3</sup> According to the test lab website, the test is intended to be used as an “adjunct to serum prostate specific antigen (PSA) for risk stratification of patients undergoing prostate biopsy. MiPS incorporates serum PSA, urine PCA3 score, and urine TMPRSS2:ERG score in logistic regression models to derive scores giving the risk of detecting prostate cancer and the risk of detecting high grade (Gleason score >6) prostate cancer on diagnostic needle biopsy.”<sup>10</sup>

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NeoLAB Prostate Liquid Biopsy (NeoGenomics Laboratories, Inc.)

The NeoLAB Prostate test is a quantitative real time PCR (qRT-PCR) test designed to look at expression levels of 12 genes associated with prostate cancer in urine and plasma samples. The expression levels of these genes are then used in two proprietary algorithms to determine a patient’s cancer risk. The manufacturer of the test claims that “NeoLAB Prostate differentiates non-cancer and low-risk cancers from high-risk prostate cancer, reducing the need for unnecessary biopsies.”<sup>11</sup>

Progenesa® PCA3 Assay (Hologic, Inc.)

The Progenesa PCA3 assay is post-DRE urine-based genetic test that measures the levels of prostate cancer antigen 3 (PCA3), which is a prostate-specific noncoding RNA that is overexpressed in a high proportion of prostate cancer cases. The assay generates a PCA3 score, which is used to estimate the probability of having a positive repeat biopsy.<sup>4</sup>

The test is intended to help clinicians identify patients at low risk of cancer who may forego repeat prostate biopsy in favor of clinical surveillance. The test is indicated for patients 50 years of age or older who have had one or more negative prostate biopsies, but who may be at risk for prostate cancer based on other clinical factors. The test is “to be used in conjunction with serum PSA and other risk indicators to guide appropriate patient management in the ‘at risk’ population of men for whom a repeat biopsy would be recommended based on current standard of care.” The Progenesa PCA3 Assay is not indicated for patients with atypical small acinar proliferation on their most recent biopsy.<sup>4</sup>

Prostate Health Index (PHI)(Beckman Coulter)

According to the manufacturer, the PHI is a diagnostic multivariate index calculated by combining the results of three different assays quantitating three forms of PSA, from blood collected prior to the DRE. The three assays measure PSA, free or unbound PSA, and p2PSA (an isoform of free PSA). The three protein biomarker levels are combined using a specific formula to calculate the PHI.<sup>2</sup>

The PHI is intended to aid in distinguishing prostate cancer from benign prostatic conditions in men aged 50 years and older with normal DRE findings. In the United States, the PHI is indicated for men with PSA levels between 4-10ng/mL.<sup>2</sup>

Although low PHI scores are thought to be associated with a lower probability of prostate cancer on biopsy, the manufacturer does not provide a specific PHI score to use as a cutoff for biopsy decision. Instead, the manufacture indicates that the cut-off PHI for biopsy decision may vary for each patient and depend on other clinical factors or family history.

SelectMDx Test (MDxHealth)

SelectMDx is a quantitative, multiplex, reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay performed on urine collected after a digital rectal exam that measures the expression of two genes

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associated with prostate cancer aggressiveness, DLX1 and HOXC6.<sup>3</sup> This is non-invasive assay is also referred to as a “liquid biopsy”.

SelectMDx is indicated for patients with clinical risk factors for prostate cancer (e.g., elevated PSA levels and urinary symptoms). It is intended to help clinicians evaluate a patient’s risk of aggressive prostate cancer and therefore help identify individuals who should undergo prostate biopsy. The test is intended to allow low-risk patients to avoid unnecessary prostate biopsy and the associated risks.<sup>12</sup>

**Molecular Assays for Prognosis or Treatment**

Decipher (GenomeDx)

According to the manufacturer, the Decipher test is a genetic test that measures the expression levels of 22 RNA biomarkers involved in multiple biological pathways that are associated with the development and progression of aggressive prostate cancer.<sup>13</sup> The test has been validated for use on FFPE samples of tissue removed during surgery in patients with adverse pathology or other high risk factors. The expression data is used to calculate the probability of clinical metastasis within five years of radical prostatectomy surgery, classifying patients into genomic risk categories for metastasis to aid in treatment recommendations post-surgery . The Decipher test is intended to provide physicians with additional information to aid in treatment and management decisions.<sup>13</sup>

The Decipher test is also marketed for use on FFPE samples of biopsy tissue, where it may be used as a potential risk assessment and management tool to help determine whether a patient with localized cancer is a good candidate for active surveillance post-biopsy. The test is accepted for use in patients who present with a very low, low, favorable, and unfavorable intermediate risk biopsy result according to NCCN Guidelines upon pathologic evaluation.<sup>13</sup>

Oncotype DX® Prostate Cancer Assay

The Oncotype DX Prostate Cancer Assay is a genetic test that uses quantitative RT-PCR methodology to measure the expression levels of 17 genes in a sample of the tumor tissue at the time of biopsy. Twelve of the genes assayed are thought to be associated with adverse tumor pathology, biochemical recurrence, metastasis, or prostate cancer death.<sup>14</sup> Using a proprietary algorithm, gene expression levels are used to calculate a Genomic Prostate Score (GPS) that indicates a tumor’s potential aggressiveness.<sup>14</sup>

Oncotype DX prostate cancer test is intended to predict the likelihood of aggressive prostate cancer in patients who have received a diagnosis of very low, low, or low-intermediate-risk prostate cancer, based on NCCN criteria.<sup>14</sup> If the test results in a low GPS score, then taken together with other clinicopathologic factors (e.g., Gleason score and PSA level), the patient may be managed using active surveillance instead of undergoing radical prostatectomy and/or radiation treatment.<sup>14</sup>

Oncotype DX® AR-V7 Nucleus Detect Test

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The Oncotype DX® AR-V7 Nucleus Detect test is a liquid biopsy test that analyzes circulating tumor cells in the patient’s blood to detect nuclear expression of AR-V7, a variant of the androgen receptor that is resistant to androgen-receptor signaling inhibitor (ARSI) therapy. The test is intended to guide treatment with ARSI therapy or with chemotherapy in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC).<sup>15</sup>

Prolaris® (Myriad Genetics, Inc.)

The Prolaris Genetic Test is a RT-PCR test conducted on FFPE tissue samples collected during standard prostate biopsy or radical prostatectomy, or on tissue from prepared slides. The test measures RNA expression levels of 46 genes, 31 of which are cell-cycle genes in the fraction of tumor cells that are actively dividing, thus providing an indirect measure of cancer growth rate. Assay results are reported as a CCP score, also called the Prolaris Score, which denotes the risk of progression.<sup>5</sup>

The Prolaris Genetic Test is intended to be used in addition to other clinicopathologic factors to assist clinicians in predicting disease aggressiveness within a 10-year window for patients with an initial diagnosis of prostate cancer to inform treatment decisions. The test is also intended to help estimate the risk of biochemical recurrence in post-prostatectomy patients to adjust monitoring intervals or treatment strategies. Patients identified as being high risk, by way of a high CCP score, may be candidates for active treatment. Prolaris scores are intended to provide additional information for clinical decision making.<sup>5</sup>

Patients receiving adjuvant hormonal therapy and radiation treatment before biopsy are not candidates for Prolaris testing because treatment effects can interfere with interpretation of test results. Prolaris has also not been validated for patients with PSA levels over 100 ng/mL (nanograms per milliliter).<sup>5</sup>

ProMark (Metamark Genetics Inc.)

The ProMark Proteomic Prognostic test quantitatively measures levels of eight protein biomarkers in FFPE prostate biopsy tissue samples using multiplex immunofluorescent staining with monoclonal antibodies. A proprietary algorithm captures digitalized quantitative measurements that are used to generate the ProMark Risk Score. The ProMark Risk Score is used to determine a personalized risk of prostate cancer aggressiveness.<sup>16</sup>

**REVIEW OF EVIDENCE**

The analytical and clinical validity of these assays have been established; therefore, the evidence review below will focus on the clinical utility of these tests to determine whether testing improves treatment management or overall patient-relevant health outcomes.



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A review of the ECRI, Hayes, Cochrane, and PubMed databases was conducted regarding the clinical utility of protein biomarker and genetic tests as tools for screening, detection, diagnosis, prognosis or management of prostate cancer. Below is a summary of the available evidence identified through January 2021.

Molecular Assays Used for Prostate Cancer Detection

*4Kscore Test*

Systematic Reviews

- In 2019, reviewed in 2020, Hayes conducted a genetic test evaluation report assessing the 4Kscore Test’s utility in prostate cancer biopsy decision making.<sup>17</sup> Having systematically searched the literature, investigators identified 1 study evaluating the test’s analytical validity, 3 studies evaluating clinical validity and 1 study evaluating clinical utility. Sample sizes ranged from 162 to 1012. Findings from the 1 analytical validity study reported that a digital rectal examination conducted before the 4kscore blood draw could affect results. Authors from the 3 assessed clinical validity studies concluded that evidence from the 4Kscore Test could estimate a patient’s percentage of risk for aggressive prostate cancer if a prostate biopsy were performed. No studies reported evidence that the Test provided information on the 10-year likelihood of developing distant metastases when the Test result is <7.5%. The one clinical utility study concluded that the Test could influence subsequent decision to proceed with biopsy; however, the study evaluated no patient outcomes. Evidence quality across all studies was rated as ranging from “very-poor” to “poor.” Hayes ultimately assigned a “D2” rating (insufficient evidence) for use of the 4kscore Test to aid in prostate cancer biopsy decision making for physician and patient via estimating patients’ percentage of risk for aggressive prostate cancer if a biopsy were performed and, secondly, providing information on the 10-year likelihood of developing distant metastases when the 4k score result is <7.5%.
- In 2018, ECRI conducted a systematic review evaluating the utility of the 4Kscore Test in assessing the risk of aggressive prostate cancer before initial or repeat biopsy.<sup>18</sup> Having evaluated the same studies assessed in the Hayes review discussed above, ECRI investigators concluded that evidence was “inconclusive” regarding the clinical utility of 4Kscore testing. Evaluated studies reported changes in patient management following test results, but not health outcomes. Moreover, evidence assessing clinical validity was mixed as to whether adding 4kscore to clinical risk factors was more accurate than clinical risk factor models alone. ECRI identified no ongoing clinical trials that would address these evidence gaps.

Nonrandomized Studies

In 2015, Konety et al. published the results of an uncontrolled retrospective case series (n=611 patients) that suggested that 4Kscore Test results influenced biopsy decisions in 89% of tested patients and

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reduced the number of prostate biopsies by 65%.<sup>19</sup> The actual percentage of cases not proceeding to biopsy were 94.0%, 52.9%, and 19.0% for men who had low-, intermediate-, and high-risk 4kScore test results, respectively, indicating that a substantial proportion of men considered to be at high-risk opted to not proceed to biopsy. However, this study did not report any follow up of patients and therefore no long-term data was reported on patient outcomes such as morbidity or mortality as a result of 4Kscore testing. Of note, in the short term, foregoing an unnecessary prostate biopsy may reduce biopsy-related complications in patients who have low-risk or no prostate cancer. However, in men deemed to be of high risk, foregoing biopsy as a result of 4Kscore testing may delay diagnosis, which could result in could result in increased morbidity and/or mortality in this patient population. Therefore, studies reporting long-term patient outcomes after use of the 4Kscore test are needed.

*ConfirmMDx*

Systematic Reviews

- In 2019, reviewed in 2020, Hayes conducted a genetic test evaluation report evaluating the utility of ConfirmMDx in prostate cancer biopsy decision making.<sup>20</sup> Having systematically searched the literature, investigators identified 1 study evaluating analytical validity, 4 studies evaluating clinical validity, and 1 study evaluating clinical utility. Sample sizes ranged from 138 to 803 men. Median follow-up was approximately 9 months. Findings from the 1 analytical validity study reported that the multiplex assay is accurate and reproducible on biopsy samples for both determining methylation positive versus negative and the methylation intensity. Clinical validity studies showed that ConfirmMDx results are negative in patients with a repeat negative prostate biopsy. One small preliminary study assessing clinical utility reported that most men with a negative ConfirmMDx result will not have repeat biopsy within 9 months of a negative prostate biopsy. The rate of repeat biopsies was not compared with the repeat biopsy rate in men receiving standard care, thus limiting generalizations regarding clinical utility. No study reported clinical outcomes in men with both positive and negative ConfirmMDx results.

Overall evidence quality was assessed as “very low.” Limitations included all tests’ manufacturer funding and a lack of large studies evaluating diverse populations of men that compared the clinical accuracy of detecting high-grade prostate cancer with ConfirmMDx. Hayes ultimately assigned a “D2” rating (insufficient evidence) for use of the ConfirmMDx test using residual prostate biopsy specimens, to “rule out men who are prostate cancer free; and [secondly] identify men at risk for undetected prostate cancer by predicting the likelihood of detecting Gleason score ≤ 6 and ≥ 7 prostate cancer on repeat biopsy in men with an initial negative biopsy yet high-risk clinicopathological features suggestive of prostate cancer.”<sup>20</sup>

- In 2019, ECRI conducted a systematic review evaluating the utility of the ConfirmMDx Test for determining need for repeat prostate biopsy.<sup>21</sup> Having evaluated 3 of the retrospective cohort studies assessed in the Hayes review discussed above, ECRI investigators concluded that evidence was “inconclusive” regarding the clinical utility of the ConfirmMDx Test. Evaluated studies reported that the repeat biopsy rate in patients managed with ConfirmMDx, but neither

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directly compared that rate to patients managed without ConfirmMDx nor reported on patient health outcomes. While data from the 2 clinical validity studies showed ConfirmMDx can help identify patients at low risk of prostate cancer; approximately 10% of patients with negative ConfirmMDx results have positive biopsy results. Investigators called for additional prospective and comparative studies to establish ConfirmMDx’s clinical validity and clinical utility.

Nonrandomized Studies

In 2014, Wojno et al. published a preliminary retrospective case series that attempted to evaluate the effect of utilization of ConfirmMDx on reducing the rate of repeat prostate biopsies in men with a negative biopsy by histopathologic analysis. While only six of 138 (4.3%) patients proceeded to a repeat biopsy based on a negative assay result, the authors stated that, “the results are only indicative of the potential that the epigenetic assay may have on patient management.” Although the aim of the study was to demonstrate a low repeat biopsy rate based on the results of the ConfirmMDx test; the biopsy rate of those who underwent testing was not compared to the repeat biopsy rate of men receiving standard care. In addition, the short-term follow-up of this study (median of nine months) was not long enough to evaluate true repeat biopsy rates, since men undergoing active surveillance would likely go back for re-evaluation every 6-12 months, based on NCCN’s current recommendations. Therefore, this single clinical utility study does not provide conclusive evidence of reduction of biopsy procedures solely due to ConfirmMDx. Furthermore, no prospective studies have been published to show that use of ConfirmMDx reduces the number of repeat biopsies across diverse clinical settings with potentially varied disease prevalence.

*Progenesa® PCA3 Assay*

- In 2014 (updated 2018), ECRI conducted a systematic review and concluded that evidence was insufficient to support the use of the PCA3 assay due to conflicting results among the six identified published clinical validity studies.<sup>4</sup> The review stated “ascertaining whether Progenesa can be used to aid in determining the need for repeat prostate biopsy is not possible from the available evidence” and noted that the cut-off scores used in the studies all differed and that there was some evidence that the test resulted in false negatives in some cases. The review did not identify any studies reporting on clinical utility.
- In 2014 (updated 2015; archived 2018), Hayes published a review that evaluated the PCA3 for its ability to detect prostate cancer, including nine uncontrolled case series (n=127-926 patients) that evaluated the clinical utility of PCA3 testing in improving risk assessment and facilitating decisions regarding prostate biopsy in men with one or more risk factors.<sup>22</sup> Although several of these studies reported that when PCA3 was incorporated into multi-variable biopsy models (also known as nomograms) there was improved diagnostic accuracy, the variables included in the nomograms differed between studies and only one of the studies was comparative. These modelling studies suggest that the PCA3 score could be incorporated into an algorithm for improved biopsy outcome, but actual management decisions regarding biopsy and how those decisions affected health outcomes were not reported. The review did not identify any studies

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that prospectively evaluated changes in patient outcomes or treatment decisions based on incorporation of PCA3 score. Consequently, although there is potential for clinical utility, the review concluded that studies were needed that directly demonstrate the impact of this test on the care of patients being evaluated for prostate cancer. Due to insufficient evidence of direct clinical utility, the review assigned the PCA3 assay a grade of “C” for prostate cancer screening in men considering prostate biopsy.

Nonrandomized Studies

In addition to the Hayes review above, Ruffion et al. published two case series suggesting that the use of PCA3 in two different nomograms led to potential reductions in unnecessary biopsies of 48-52% with increases in missed prostate cancers of 6-15% using either a *PCA3*-based nomogram or *PCA3* level corrected for prostate volume (*PCA3* density). However, neither series assessed utility of the test for actual clinical decision-making, since all patients underwent biopsy regardless of results from the nomogram. In addition, neither study evaluated patient specific outcomes such as recurrence or survival.

*Prostate Health Index (PHI) (Beckman Coulter Inc.)*

- In 2017 (reviewed in 2020), Hayes published a Molecular Test Assessment on the Prostate Health Index (PHI) for prebiopsy triage (Beckman Coulter).<sup>2</sup> Hayes included 2 studies for analytical validity, 6 studies for clinical validity, and 1 study for clinical utility, by Tosoian et al, is summarized below. Hayes gave the PHI test for prebiopsy triage in men ≥ 50 years of age a Hayes rating of C, based on low-quality evidence for clinical validity and very-low-quality evidence for analytical validity and clinical utility, stating that there is insufficient evidence to assess the impact on health outcomes.
- In 2017, Tosoian et al. published the results of a case-control study that evaluated the effect of the PHI on incidence of initial biopsy, including 345 cases and 231 controls.<sup>23</sup> The incidence of biopsy was significantly lower (p<0.001) in men who had PHI testing (39%) compared with those that did not (48%), suggesting that the PHI may impact prostate biopsy decisions. However, this study did not evaluate the role the PHI had in biopsy decision, nor were the impact on prostate cancer diagnosis or subsequent health outcomes assessed.

*SelectMDx*

In 2019, Hayes published a molecular test assessment for the SelectMDx test (MDxHealth Inc) for prostate cancer.<sup>24</sup> The review included 1 study on analytical validity, 3 studies on clinical validity, and one study on clinical utility. The one study on clinical utility by Shore and colleagues was a retrospective review evaluating the impact of the SelectMDx test on patient management practice. The biopsy rate in SelectMDx test positive men were 60% (99/163) compared to 12% (32/255) for SelectMDx test negative

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men ( $P < 0.001$ ); however, as this was a retrospective chart review, the authors could not confirm to what, if any, extent the test impacted biopsy decision. Furthermore, the impact on patient outcomes is also unclear. Overall, there is very-low-quality evidence to support the clinical utility of the SelectMDx test. The reviewers gave SelectMDx a Hayes rating of D2, stating that there was insufficient evidence supporting use of the test and additional studies are needed to demonstrate clinical validity and clinical utility.

*ExoDx Prostate (also known as IntelliScore)*

In 2018, archived in 2020, Hayes conducted a GTE synopsis of the ExoDx Prostate test.<sup>25</sup> Systematic searches yielded one abstract. Investigators concluded that evidence was insufficient to perform a full health technology assessment of the test.

*Other Assays*

Clinical utility studies using assay results for decision-making for initial biopsy or repeat biopsy were not identified for any other molecular assay proposed as a tool to detect prostate cancer, including but not limited to EpiScore, NeoLAB Prostate Liquid Biopsy, and Mi-Prostate Score. In addition, no studies were identified that reported on health outcomes such as recurrence or survival of patients that underwent testing using any of the assays described above.

Molecular Assays used for Prognosis or Treatment

*Decipher*

In 2015 (updated 2020), Hayes published a review on the Decipher prostate cancer classifier test, including three industry-sponsored clinical utility studies that reported on decision impact of the Decipher test.<sup>26-29</sup> The review noted that the Decipher test was reported by some studies, “to have greater ability than clinicopathologic features alone to predict metastasis in high-risk men, and there was some indication that it could improve predictive performance of clinicopathologic models.” However, measures of test performance were not consistent across studies, and it was unclear whether Decipher added enough prognostic information compared to current clinicopathologic models to change patient management decisions and improve outcomes. In addition, the included studies consisted of relatively small case series (ranging from 121 to 266 patients) and all four studies suffered from similar limitations including that the actual treatment administered was not tracked, patient outcomes were not assessed, and the urologists who participated in the studies were likely not representative of all urologists. As a result, Hayes rated the use of the Decipher test with a “D2” rating, indicating that additional independent studies reporting actual clinical utility measures are needed.

*Oncotype DX® Prostate Cancer Test*

In 2018, ECRI conducted a systematic review evaluating the utility of the Oncotype DX Genomic Prostate Score (GPS) Test in assessing prostate cancer prognosis.<sup>14</sup> Having evaluated 4 of the clinical validity

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studies assessed in the Hayes review discussed below (n = 1,195), including 2 clinical utility studies (n= 369), ECRI investigators concluded that evidence was “inconclusive” regarding the clinical utility of the Oncotype DX Genomic Prostate Score. Evaluated studies reported that results may affect patient management decisions; however, no data reported the impact that those changes had on patient health outcomes. While some clinical validity evidence suggested that GPS correlates with incidence of adverse pathology, no studies reported 10-year prostate cancer-specific mortality or metastasis rates.

In 2018, reviewed in 2020, Hayes published a review on the Oncotype DX Genomic Prostate Score (GPS) Assay.<sup>30</sup> In 2016 (updated 2018), Hayes published a review on the Oncotype DX prostate cancer test, including two studies evaluating the test’s clinical utility.<sup>31</sup> One case series of 158 men reported an 18% absolute change in treatment recommendation between active surveillance and immediate treatment after assay results and a 26% change in treatment choice/intensity after assay results.<sup>32</sup> In contrast, a second retrospective chart review of 211 patients reported no significant difference in the recommendation of active surveillance/watchful waiting between baseline patients and those with Oncotype assay scores.<sup>33</sup> However, there was a significant difference in active surveillance/watchful waiting as the single treatment received between baseline patients and patients with a GPS. Although the results from the two clinical utility studies suggest that Oncotype DX could potentially affect initial treatment decisions in patients whose very low or low risk status is modified based on assay results, no study has been identified to determine whether Oncotype DX score results improve long-term health outcomes, such as overall survival. As a result, Hayes rated the use of the Oncotype DX prostate cancer test with a “D2” grade due to very low utility evidence of clinical utility, stating that long-term clinical utility studies are needed.

*Oncotype DX® AR-V7 Nucleus Detect Test*

Systematic Reviews

In 2018, ECRI conducted a systematic review evaluating the utility of the Oncotype DX AR-V7 Nucleus Detect Test for informing treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.<sup>15</sup> Having systematically searched the literature through October 2018, investigators reviewed 2 prospective studies (n=303), neither of which assessed the test’s clinical validity or utility. While data from one cross-sectional correlation study provided indirect evidence of test utility, results from other studies to date have been mixed. ECRI investigators concluded that evidence was “inconclusive” regarding the clinical utility of the Oncotype DX AR-V7 Nucleus Detect Test. To assess clinical validity and utility, authors called for large, diagnostic and longitudinal cohort studies assessing outcomes after patients undergo therapy guided by AR-V7 test results.

Nonrandomized Controlled Trials

- In 2019, Sharp and colleagues evaluated the reproducibility of AR-V7 testing, and associations with clinical characteristics, circulating tumor cell counts, tumor biopsy AR-V7 protein expression and overall survival.<sup>34</sup> Researchers determined AR-V7 status via blood samples from

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patients with mCRPC (n=181), circulating tumor cell counts (n=136) and matched biopsies (n=58). In total, 95/277 samples tested positive for circulating tumor cells and negative for AR-V7, while 96/277 samples were positive for both circulating tumor cells and AR-V7. When controlling for baseline characteristics, overall survival was shorter in patients with positive circulating tumor cells and positive AR-V7 than in participants with negative circulating tumor cells. No evidence was found that patients with positive circulating tumor cells and positive AR-V7 had worse overall survival than participants with positive circulating tumor cells and negative AR-V7 (HR 1.26; 95% CI 0.73-2.17;  $p = 0.4$ ). Limitations included the heterogeneity of treatments, which prevented investigators from evaluating AR-V7 expression as a predictive biomarker of response to treatment. Authors concluded that “robust clinical qualification of these [AR-V7] assays is required before their routine use.”

- In 2019, Armstrong and colleagues conducted a prospective, blinded validation study of two circulating tumor cell AR-V7 assays in predicting progression-free survival and overall survival with abiraterone or enzalutamide in patients with mCRPC.<sup>35</sup> Among 118 patients with high-risk mCRPC, 55 patients were treated with abiraterone, 58 were treated with enzalutamide, and 5 received both therapies concurrently. Median follow-up time among surviving participants was 19.6 months. Among all patients, median progression-free survival was 5.8 months (95% CI, 4.1 to 7.6 months) and median overall survival (OS) was 20.3 months (95% CI, 17.0 to 27.2 months). AR-V7 detection by both the Johns Hopkins and Epic AR-V7 assays was independently associated with shorter PFS (HR: 1.9 [95% CI, 1.1 to 3.3;  $P = .032$ ] and 2.4 [95% CI, 1.1 to 5.1;  $P = .020$ ], respectively) and OS (HR: 4.2 [95% CI, 2.1 to 8.5] and 3.5 [95% CI, 1.6 to 8.1], respectively) after adjusting for CTC number and clinical prognostic factors. Men with AR-V7–positive mCRPC had fewer confirmed prostate-specific antigen responses (0% to 11%) or soft tissue responses (0% to 6%). The observed percentage agreement between the two AR-V7 assays was 82%. Only 11 and 28 participants who tested positive for AR-V7 by the two different assays. Investigators concluded that larger controlled studies were needed to confirm the predictive value of AR-V7.

*Prolaris®*

### Systematic Reviews

In 2019 (reviewed in 2020), Hayes published a systematic review assessing the clinical utility of the Prolaris Biopsy Test for determination of the 10-year risk of metastatic disease after definitive therapy and disease-specific mortality if conservatively managed.<sup>36</sup> Investigators systematically searched the literature through March 2019. In total, 10 studies were examined in detail, assessing analytical validity (n=2), clinical validity (n=6), and clinical utility (n=2). Sample sizes ranged from 123 to 19,215; follow-up ranged from 3 months to 11.8 years. Results from 1 analytical validity study suggested that the cell cycle progression (CCP) score was reproducible, while another study showed that DNA contamination may affect CCP scores. Six clinical validity studies reported preliminary evidence that CCP score and cell cycle risk (CCR) score may aid in predicting prostate cancer-specific mortality and metastasis. While two clinical utility studies suggested that the Prolaris Biopsy test may influence treatment decisions, no studies to date have provided direct evidence that the test drives decision making or reported

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subsequent clinical outcomes. Overall evidence quality was assessed as “very low.” Investigators ultimately assigned a “D2” rating (insufficient evidence) and concluded that evidence was insufficient to support the use of the Prolaris test. Authors called for additional tests demonstrating the Prolaris test’s accuracy, reproducibility and clinical utility.

Nonrandomized Controlled Trials

Two large prospective case series (n=305 and 1206 patients) and one small case-control study have been published that evaluated whether the use of the Prolaris test changed patient management.<sup>37-39</sup> Both series performed Prolaris testing on initial prostate biopsy tissue and reported that between 37.2- 72.1% patients had a reduction in treatment and 23.4-26.9% had an increase in treatment based on test results. Only one of the studies, which was industry-sponsored, tracked patients after treatment recommendation were made to ensure adherence (median three months follow-up post-test).<sup>37</sup> While the results of these two studies suggest that Prolaris testing results can be used to personalize treatment decisions, they did not report on patient outcomes.

In addition, studies assessing the effect of Prolaris on patient patient-important outcomes, such as biochemical recurrence, cancer-specific survival or long-term survival, are lacking. Therefore, prospective studies are needed that compare health outcomes between patients managed based on Prolaris test results and those managed with standard clinical risk predictors. This conclusion was also reached by a 2017 ECRI review, that reported that the evidence for the use of the Prolaris test was inconclusive because none of the available studies (seven clinical validity and two clinical utility studies) directly showed that Prolaris use improved patient health outcomes. The review concluded that “limited evidence shows that Prolaris works as intended for predicting disease aggressiveness and identifying patients at higher risk for recurrence.”<sup>5</sup>

*ProMark*

In 2016 (reviewed in 2020), Hayes published a genetic test evaluation report evaluating the ProMark Proteomic Prognostic Test.<sup>16</sup> In total, 3 analytical validity studies and 2 clinical validity studies were included for review. Sample sizes ranged from 380 to 508 for analytical validity studies and 276 to 282 for clinical validity studies. Despite preliminary evidence of clinical validity for the test prognostic value, neither study measured the test’s repeatability, reproducibility, limits of detection, and analytical sensitivity and specificity. Evidence was insufficient to determine the benefits of using ProMark for risk stratification over the use of standard clinicopathological methods. No clinical utility studies have been published to date providing evidence for the ProMark test. Overall evidence quality was assessed as “very-low.” Hayes ultimately assigned a “D2” rating (insufficient evidence) for the use of the ProMark Proteomic Prognostic Test to provide a personalized prediction of prostate cancer aggressiveness in patients with biopsy Gleason scores of 3+3 and 3+4.

**CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

National Institutes of Health and Care Excellence (NICE)



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In 2019, NICE published a clinical practice guideline addressing the diagnosis and management of prostate cancer.<sup>40</sup> Citing a lack of clinical evidence, investigators recommended against the use of the ProgenSA PCA3 assay and the Prostate Health Index in patients undergoing evaluation for suspected prostate cancer who have had a negative or inconclusive prostate biopsy.

American Urological Association (AUA)/American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)/Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO)

In 2017, investigators representing the AUA/ASTRO/SUO published an evidence-based clinical practice guideline addressing clinically localized prostate cancer.<sup>41</sup> Noting a lack of clinical utility, authors concluded that “tissue based genomic biomarkers have not shown a clear role in active surveillance for localized prostate cancer and are not necessary for follow up.” Due to a lack of published evidence, this determination was made on the basis of “expert opinion.”

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)

In 2020, the NCCN published updated guidelines (Version 3.2020) for the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.<sup>42</sup> Despite noting a lack of demonstrated clinical utility, investigators concluded that “men with low or favorable intermediate-risk disease and life expectancy  $\geq 10$  y may consider the use of the following tumor-based molecular assays: Decipher, Oncotype DX Prostate, Prolaris, and ProMark. Men with unfavorable intermediate- and high-risk disease and life expectancy  $\geq 10$  y may consider the use of Decipher and Prolaris tumor-based molecular assays during initial risk stratification.” Citing retrospective studies, authors stated that molecular assays provided prognostic information independent of NCCN or CAPRA risk groups (e.g. likelihood of death with conservative management, likelihood of biochemical progression after radical prostatectomy). On the basis of lower-level evidence, authors also stated that “Decipher may be considered to inform adjuvant treatment if adverse features are found after radical prostatectomy and during workup for radical prostatectomy PSA persistence or recurrence (category 2B for the latter setting).”

The also guidelines stated that use of AR-V7 testing “can be considered to help guide selection of therapy in the post-abiraterone/enzalutamide metastatic CRPC setting.”

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

In 2020, ASCO published guidelines on molecular biomarkers in localized prostate cancer. The guidelines recommend the following:<sup>43</sup>

- “Are there molecular biomarkers to identify patients with prostate cancer who are most likely to benefit from active surveillance? Commercially available molecular biomarkers (ie, Oncotype Dx Prostate, Prolaris, Decipher, and ProMark) may be offered in situations in which the assay result, when considered as a whole with routine clinical factors, is likely to have an impact on patient

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management. Routine ordering of molecular biomarkers is not recommended (Type: evidence-based; Evidence quality: intermediate; Strength of recommendation: moderate).

- Are there molecular biomarkers to diagnose clinically significant prostate cancer? Commercially available molecular biomarkers (ie, Oncotype Dx Prostate, Prolaris, Decipher, and ProMark) may be offered in situations in which the assay result, when considered as a whole with routine clinical factors, is likely to have an impact on patient management. Routine ordering of molecular biomarkers is not recommended (Type: evidence-based; Evidence quality: intermediate; Recommendation: moderate).
- Are there molecular biomarkers to guide the decision between postprostatectomy adjuvant versus salvage radiation? The Expert Panel recommends consideration of a commercially available molecular biomarker (eg, Decipher Genomic Classifier) in situations in which the assay result, when considered as a whole with routine clinical factors, is likely to have an impact on patient management. In the absence of prospective clinical trial data, routine use of genomic biomarkers in the postprostatectomy setting to determine adjuvant versus salvage radiation or to initiate systemic therapies should not be offered (Type: evidence-based; Evidence quality: intermediate; Strength of recommendation: moderate)."

ASCO notes that there is no high-level evidence showing that molecular biomarker testing for management decisions improves quality of life or cancer-specific outcomes and recommend continued investigation of these tests through clinical trials.

**POLICY SUMMARY**

There is insufficient evidence of clinical utility for any protein biomarker test or genetic test currently being evaluated as a tool for screening, detection, diagnosis, prognosis or management of prostate cancer. Although some assays show promise when used in conjunction with commonly evaluated clinical pathologic factors such as digital rectal exam (DRE) and prostate specific antigen (PSA) tests, it is unclear how much information protein biomarker and genetic tests can add to the tests currently used for prostate cancer evaluation and management. In addition, there is very little evidence that the results of these assays translate into actual changes in treatment and physician and patient adherence to those treatment changes. Furthermore, there is no evidence that any assay addressed in this policy has led to improved patient-relevant outcomes such as recurrence or survival. Lastly, there are no current clinical practice guidelines, including those published by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), that strongly recommend the use of any protein biomarker or genetic test for the detection, diagnosis, prognosis or management of prostate cancer. Although NCCN indicates that there assays that may be considered for select patients in specific clinical situations, they acknowledge that there is insufficient evidence of clinical utility for these assays.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

Company Medical Policies serve as guidance for the administration of plan benefits. Medical policies do not constitute medical advice nor a guarantee of coverage. Company Medical Policies are reviewed

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annually and are based upon published, peer-reviewed scientific evidence and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines that are available as of the last policy update. The Companies reserve the right to determine the application of Medical Policies and make revisions to Medical Policies at any time. Providers will be given at least 60-days’ notice of policy changes that are restrictive in nature.

The scope and availability of all plan benefits are determined in accordance with the applicable coverage agreement. Any conflict or variance between the terms of the coverage agreement and Company Medical Policy will be resolved in favor of the coverage agreement.

**REGULATORY STATUS**

Mental Health Parity Statement

Coverage decisions are made on the basis of individualized determinations of medical necessity and the experimental or investigational character of the treatment in the individual case. In cases where medical necessity is not established by policy for specific treatment modalities, evidence not previously considered regarding the efficacy of the modality that is presented shall be given consideration to determine if the policy represents current standards of care.

**MEDICAL POLICY CROSS REFERENCES**

- Circulating Tumor Cell Assays for Cancer Management – LAB151
- Genetic Testing: Non-Covered Genetic Panel Tests (All Lines of Business Except Medicare) – GT235

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