

# MEDICAL POLICY ~~27eW\*nBIDmGDma8A)Dn~~

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a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements prepared by CareSource and its affiliates do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Medical Policy Statement. If there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination. According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

## This policy applies to the following Marketplace(s):

- Georgia
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A. Subject

**Genetic Testing and Counseling**

B. Background

Advancements in technology have contributed to the rapid expansion of identified genetic variations. Some of these variations have been identified as disease-causing, while others are considered common variants with no clinical impact. With the ever-expanding number of genetic tests available, it can be clinically difficult to determine the most appropriate tests for a particular patient. When clinically appropriate, genetic testing may provide diagnostic and/or actionable therapeutic results which can impact a patient's outcome. Due to the complexity of genetic tests and possible results, consultation with medical genetics professionals and counselors may be required to assist members.

According to the National Society of Genetic Counselors of the United States, genetic counseling is meant to integrate the following goals: 1) interpretation of family and medical histories to assess the chance of disease occurrence or recurrence; 2) education about the natural history of the condition, inheritance pattern, testing, management, prevention, support resources, and research; 3) counseling to promote informed choices in view of risk assessment, family goals, ethical and religious values; and 4) support to encourage the best possible adjustment to the disorder in an affected family member and/or to the risk of recurrence of that disorder. Genetic counselors are healthcare professionals trained to provide this care; however, access issues may require other healthcare professionals to assume this role. Genetic counseling, whether provided by a certified genetic counselor or other qualified healthcare professional, is an integral component of genetic testing that is informative and supportive to members, both before and after the completion of testing.

C. Definitions

- **Genetic Screening** – The process of testing a population for a genetic disease to identify a subgroup of people who either have the disease or the potential to pass it to offspring.
- **Genetic Testing** – A medical test that identifies changes in genes, chromosomes, or proteins to confirm or rule out a suspected genetic condition either hereditary or acquired.
- **Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Typing** – A test used to match patients and donors for bone marrow or cord blood transplants.
- **Inherited Genetic Variant** – A type of DNA sequence change passed from parent to offspring (ie, germline).
- **Precision Medicine** – A field of medicine that selects pharmacotherapies based on the patient's genetics.
- **Somatic Gene Variant** – A type of DNA sequence change that is not inherited from a parent but acquired during a person's life.

The MEDICAL Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the MEDICAL Policy Statement Policy and is approved.





