Serum Tumor Markers for Breast Malignancies

DESCRIPTION

Serum tumor markers are substances shed by certain tumors into circulation where they can be detected and measured. Diagnosis of a suspected malignancy requires a tumor marker that is specific for a given tumor. For breast cancer, the serum tumor markers CEA, CA 15-3 and CA 27.29 have been investigated for monitoring advanced disease and to assist in determining whether to continue with a particular type of therapy, terminate its use, or switch to an alternative therapy.

POLICY

- Measurement of serum tumor markers for breast malignancies is considered medically necessary if medical appropriateness criteria are met.
- Expanded serum tumor marker panels involving additional markers (i.e., beyond those considered medically appropriate) are considered investigational.
- Measurement of any other serum tumor markers as a technique to diagnose, determine prognosis, select therapy or monitor for recurrence of breast malignancy is considered investigational.

MEDICAL APPROPRIATENESS

- Measurement of serum tumor markers for breast malignancy is considered medically appropriate if ALL of the following are met:
  - Serum tumor markers include ONE or MORE of the following:
    - CA 15.3
    - CA 27.29
    - CEA
  - Used to monitor treatment in individuals with advanced breast cancer (i.e., metastatic disease)
  - Used as an adjunctive assessment (i.e., in combination with radiology and clinical examination)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Any specific products referenced in this policy are just examples and are intended for illustrative purposes only. It is not intended to be a recommendation of one product over another, and is not intended to represent a complete listing of all products available. These examples are contained in the parenthetical e.g. statement.
- We develop Medical Policies to provide guidance to Members and Providers. This Medical Policy relates only to the services or supplies described in it. The existence of a Medical Policy is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or a contract for the service (or supply) that is referenced in the Medical Policy. For a determination of the benefits that a Member is entitled to receive under his or her health plan, the Member's health plan must be reviewed. If there is a conflict between the Medical Policy and a health plan, the express terms of the health plan will govern.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Data are insufficient to recommend use of CEA, CA 15-3 and CA 27.29 alone for monitoring response to treatment.


**EFFECTIVE DATE** 5/1/2018

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This document has been classified as public information.