

Laboratory Studies For Diagnosing and Managing Inflammatory Bowel Disease

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Disclaimer

Highmark Health Options medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

POLICY STATEMENT

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) refers to a chronic and relapsing inflammatory disorder of the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) accompanied by abdominal pain, rectal bleeding and malabsorption. It comprises two major entities, ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn’s disease (CD).

Serologic panels of multiple antibodies are proposed to aid in differential diagnosis of CD versus UC in stratifying patients according to disease phenotype and risk of complications.

Examples of serological markers/laboratory tests include:

- Anti-neutrophilic cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA), perinuclear anti-neutrophilic cytoplasmic antibody (pANCA)
- Anti-saccharomyces cerevisiae antibody (ASCA)
- Anti-outer membrane porin C (anti-OmpC) antibody
- Anti-CBir1 flagellin (anti-CBir1) antibody
- Anti-I2
- Anti-laminaribioside carbohydrate IgG (ALCA)
- Anti-laminarin (anti-L)
- Anti-chitobioside carbohydrate IgA (ACCA)
- Anti-mannobioside antibodies IgG (A Σ MA) or AMCA)
- Pseudomonas associated sequence I-2 (Anti-I2)
- Antibodies against exocrine pancreas (PAB)
- Antibodies to goblet cells (GAB)

DEFINITIONS

Highmark Health Options (HHO) – Managed care organization serving vulnerable populations that have complex needs and qualify for Medicaid. Highmark Health Options members include individuals and families with low income, expecting mothers, children, and people with disabilities. Members pay nothing to very little for their health coverage. Highmark Health Options currently serves Delaware Medicaid:

Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plan and Health Plan Plus members.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease – A group of inflammatory conditions of the colon and small intestine.

POLICY POSITION

Fecal calprotectin testing may be considered medically necessary for ANY of the following:

- Evaluation of individuals when the differential diagnosis is IBD; or
- Evaluation of individuals demonstrating symptoms of active disease; or
- Evaluation for mucosal healing when colonoscopy is being considered; or
- Evaluation for response to biologic or therapy escalation when colonoscopy is being considered; or
- IBD for which endoscopy with biopsy is being considered.

Fecal calprotectin testing is considered experimental/investigational for all other indications because the safety and/or effectiveness of this service cannot be established by the available published peer-reviewed literature.

ANCA/ASCA may be considered medically necessary for individuals with indeterminate colitis that are being considered for surgery.

All other serological marker/laboratory tests are considered experimental/investigational for all other indications because the safety and/or effectiveness of these services cannot be established by the available published peer-reviewed literature.

PROCEDURE CODES

Table	Style
81401	Molecular Pathology Procedure, Level 2 (e.g., 2-10 Snps, 1 Methylated Variant, Or 1 Somatic Variant [typically using Nonsequencing Target Variantanalysis], Or Detection Of A Dynamic Mutation Disorder/triplet Repeat).
83993	Calprotectin, Fecal.
86255	Fluorescent Noninfectious Agent Antibody; Screen, Each Antibody.
86256	Fluorescent Noninfectious Agent Antibody; Titer, Each Antibody.
86671	Antibody; Fungus, Not Elsewhere Specified.
89240	Unlisted Miscellaneous Pathology Test.

Covered Diagnosis Code For Procedure Codes 86255, 86256 and 86671

K52.3				
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Noncovered services

Experimental/investigational (E/I) services are not covered regardless of place of service.

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