Preauthorization is required.

The following protocol contains medical necessity criteria that apply for this service. The criteria are also applicable to services provided in the local Medicare Advantage operating area for those members, unless separate Medicare Advantage criteria are indicated. If the criteria are not met, reimbursement will be denied and the patient cannot be billed. Please note that payment for covered services is subject to eligibility and the limitations noted in the patient’s contract at the time the services are rendered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Populations</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Comparators</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals:</td>
<td>Interventions of interest are:</td>
<td>Comparators of interest are:</td>
<td>Relevant outcomes include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• With signs and/or symptoms of idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy</td>
<td>• Comprehensive genetic testing</td>
<td>• Standard workup without genetic testing</td>
<td>• Overall survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Test accuracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Test validity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Change in disease status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Functional outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Quality of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Treatment-related morbidity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals:</td>
<td>Interventions of interest are:</td>
<td>Comparators of interest are:</td>
<td>Relevant outcomes include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Who are asymptomatic with a first-degree relative who has dilated</td>
<td>• Targeted genetic testing for a</td>
<td>• Standard workup without genetic testing</td>
<td>• Overall survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cardiomyopathy and a known familial variant</td>
<td>known familial variant</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Test accuracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Test validity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Morbid events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Functional outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Quality of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Treatment-related morbidity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is characterized by progressive left ventricular enlargement and systolic dysfunction, leading to clinical manifestations of heart failure. There are a variety of causes of DCM, including genetic and nongenetic conditions. Genetic forms of DCM are heterogeneous in their molecular basis and clinical expression. Genetic testing for DCM has potential utility for confirming a diagnosis of genetic DCM and as a prognostic test in family members when familial DCM is present.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

For individuals who have signs and/or symptoms of DCM who receive comprehensive genetic testing, the evi-
Evidence includes large case series reporting clinical validity and prospective observational studies reporting clinical utility. The relevant outcomes are overall survival, test validity, symptoms, change in disease status, functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. The percentage of patients with idiopathic DCM who have a genetic variant (clinical sensitivity) is relatively low, in the range of 10% to 40%. Additional studies assessed clinical outcomes of patients with DCM and at least one known variant compared with patients with DCM and no known variants. The studies reported that patients with DCM and known variants experienced lower event-free survival, earlier onset of symptoms, lower transplant-free survival, and more life-threatening arrhythmias compared with patients with DCM and no known variants. A prospective observational study has reported that patients with DCM and known variants experienced high rates of morbidity and mortality during four to eight years of follow-up. While direct evidence of clinical usefulness is lacking, confirming a diagnosis can lead to changes in clinical management which improve net health outcomes. Changes in management may include earlier implantation of cardiac defibrillators or increased surveillance to detect worsening of symptoms, as well as cascade genetic testing of asymptomatic family members. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who are asymptomatic with a first-degree relative who has DCM and a known familial variant who receive targeted genetic testing for a known familial variant, the evidence includes case series reporting clinical value and a prospective observational study reporting clinical utility. The relevant outcomes are test validity, symptoms, morbid events, functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. For an individual at-risk due to genetic DCM in the family, genetic testing can identify whether a familial variant has been inherited. A prospective observational study with four to eight years of follow-up reported the development of cardiac symptoms among patients initially asymptomatic who had DCM-related variants. While direct evidence of clinical usefulness is lacking, confirming a diagnosis can lead to changes in clinical management which improve net health outcomes. Changes in management may include periodic clinical and cardiovascular evaluations to detect the earliest signs of disease, as well as genetic counseling. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

**POLICY**

Comprehensive genetic testing for individuals with signs or symptoms of dilated cardiomyopathy which is considered idiopathic after a negative workup for secondary causes is considered **medically necessary**.

Targeted genetic testing for asymptomatic individuals with a first-degree relative who has dilated cardiomyopathy and a known familial variant is considered **medically necessary**.

Genetic testing for dilated cardiomyopathy is considered **investigational** in all other situations.

**POLICY GUIDELINES**

**STANDARD WORKUP FOR PATIENTS WITH SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY**

The standard workup for patients with signs or symptoms of dilated cardiomyopathy includes a clinical exam, blood pressure monitoring, electrocardiography, echocardiography, and workup for coronary artery disease as warranted by risk factors. Extensive workup including cardiac magnetic resonance imaging, exercise testing, right-sided catheterization with biopsy, and 24-hour electrocardiography monitoring will uncover only a small number of additional etiologies for DCM.

**Genetics Nomenclature Update**

The Human Genome Variation Society nomenclature is used to report information on variants found in D and serves as an international standard in D diagnostics. It is being implemented for genetic testing medical evidence
review updates starting in 2017 (see Table PG1). The Society’s nomenclature is recommended by the HUman Variome Project, the Human Genome Organization, and by the Human Genome Variation Society itself.

The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the Association for Molecular Pathology standards and guidelines for interpretation of sequence variants represent expert opinion from both organizations, in addition to the College of American Pathologists. These recommendations primarily apply to genetic tests used in clinical laboratories, including genotyping, single genes, panels, exomes, and genomes. Table PG2 shows the recommended standard terminology—"pathogenic," "likely pathogenic," "uncertain significance," "likely benign," and "benign"—to describe variants identified that cause Mendelian disorders.

Table PG1. Nomenclature to Report on Variants in DNA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mutation</td>
<td>Disease-associated variant</td>
<td>Disease-associated change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variant</td>
<td>Change in the DNA sequence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familial variant</td>
<td>Disease-associated variant identified in a proband for use in subsequent targeted genetic testing in first-degree relatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table PG2. ACMG-AMP Standards and Guidelines for Variant Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant Classification</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathogenic</td>
<td>Disease-causing change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely pathogenic</td>
<td>Likely disease-causing change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variant of uncertain significance</td>
<td>Change in DNA sequence with uncertain effects on disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely benign</td>
<td>Likely benign change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benign</td>
<td>Benign change in the DNA sequence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACMG: American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics; AMP: Association for Molecular Pathology.

Genetic Counseling

Experts recommend formal genetic counseling for patients who are at-risk for inherited disorders and who wish to undergo genetic testing. Interpreting the results of genetic tests and understanding risk factors can be difficult for some patients; genetic counseling helps individuals understand the impact of genetic testing, including the possible effects the test results could have on the individual or their family members. It should be noted that genetic counseling may alter the utilization of genetic testing substantially and may reduce inappropriate testing; further, genetic counseling should be performed by an individual with experience and expertise in genetic medicine and genetic testing methods.

BACKGROUND

DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY

DCM is defined as the presence of left ventricular enlargement and dilatation in conjunction with significant systolic dysfunction. DCM has an estimated prevalence of one in 2700 in the United States.\(^1\) The age of onset for DCM varies, ranging from infancy to the eighth decade, with most individuals developing symptoms in the fourth through sixth decades.\(^2\)

Diagnosis

Primary clinical manifestations of DCM are heart failure and arrhythmias. Symptoms of heart failure, such as dyspnea on exertion and peripheral edema, are the most common presentations of DCM. These symptoms are generally gradual in onset and slowly progressive over time. Progressive myocardial dysfunction also may lead to electrical instability and arrhythmias. Symptoms of arrhythmias may include light-headedness, syncope, or sudden cardiac arrest.
Many underlying conditions can cause DCM, including:3

- Ischemic coronary artery disease
- Toxins
- Metabolic conditions
- Endocrine disorders
- Inflammatory and infectious diseases
- Infiltrative disorders
- Tachycardia-mediated cardiomyopathy.

Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy

When a patient presents with DCM, a workup is performed to identify underlying causes, especially those treatable. The standard workup consists of a clinical exam, blood pressure monitoring, electrocardiography, echocardiography, and workup for coronary artery disease as warranted by risk factors. Extensive workup including cardiac magnetic resonance imaging, exercise testing, right-sided catheterization with biopsy, and 24-hour electrocardiography monitoring will uncover only a small number of additional etiologies for DCM.4 Approximately 35% to 40% of DCM cases are thus determined to be idiopathic after a negative workup for secondary causes listed above.3 This has traditionally been termed IDC.

Clustering of IDC within families has been reported, leading to the conclusion that at least some cases of DCM have a genetic basis. Familial DCM is diagnosed when two closely related family members have IDC in the absence of underlying causes. Penetrance of familial DCM is variable and age-dependent, often leading to a lack of appreciation of the familial component.

Treatment

Treatment of DCM is similar to that for other causes of heart failure. This includes medications to reduce fluid overload and relieve strain on the heart and lifestyle modifications such as salt restriction. Patients with clinically significant arrhythmias also may be treated with antiarrhythmic medications, pacemaker implantation, and/or an automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator. Automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator placement for primary prevention also may be performed if criteria for low ejection fraction and/or other clinical symptoms are present. End-stage DCM can be treated with cardiac transplantation.

Genetic DCM

Genetic DCM has been proposed as a newer classification that includes both familial DCM and some cases of sporadic IDC. The percentage of patients with sporadic DCM that has a genetic basis is not well characterized. Most disease-associated variants are inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion, but some autosomal recessive, X-linked, and mitochondrial patterns of inheritance also are present.5

In general, genotype-phenotype correlations are either not present or not well characterized. There have been some purported correlations between certain disease-associated variants and the presence of arrhythmias. For example, patients with conduction system disease and/or a family history of sudden cardiac death may be more likely to have disease-associated variants in the lamin A/C, SCN5A, and DES genes.1 Kayvanpour et al (2017) performed a meta-analysis of genotype-phenotype associations in DCM.6 The analysis included 48 studies (total n=8097 patients) and found a higher prevalence of sudden cardiac death, cardiac transplantation, and ventricular arrhythmias in the lamin A/C and PLN disease-associated variant carriers and increasing penetrance with age of DCM phenotype in subjects with TTN-truncating variants.
There may be interactions between genetic and environmental factors that lead to the clinical manifestations of DCM. A genetic variant may not in itself be sufficient to cause DCM but may predispose to developing DCM in the presence of environmental factors such as nutritional deficiencies or viral infections. It also has been suggested that DCM genetics may be more complex than single-gene variants, with low-penetrance variants that are common in the population contributing to a cumulative risk of DCM that includes both genetic and environmental factors.

Genetic Testing for DCM

Approximately 30% to 40% of patients with DCM referred for genetic testing will have a disease-associated variant identified. Disease-associated variants linked to DCM have been identified in more than 40 genes of various types and locations. The most common genes involved are those that code for titin (TTN), myosin heavy chain (MYH7), troponin T (TNNT2), and alpha-tropomyosin (TPM1). These four genes account for approximately 30% of disease-associated variants identified in cohorts of patients with DCM. A high proportion of the identified disease-associated variants are rare, or novel, variants, thus creating challenges in assigning the pathogenicity of discovered variants. Some individuals with DCM will have more than one DCM-associated variant. The frequency of multiple disease-associated variants is uncertain, as is the clinical significance.

REGULATORY STATUS

Clinical laboratories may develop and validate tests in-house and market them as a laboratory service; laboratory-developed tests must meet the general regulatory standards of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments. Laboratories that offer laboratory-developed tests must be licensed by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments for high-complexity testing. To date, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has chosen not to require any regulatory review of this test.

RELATED PROTOCOLS

General Approach to Evaluating the Utility of Genetic Panels

Genetic Testing for Cardiac Channelopathies

Genetic Testing for Predisposition to Inherited Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

Services that are the subject of a clinical trial do not meet our Technology Assessment Protocol criteria and are considered investigational. For explanation of experimental and investigational, please refer to the Technology Assessment Protocol.

It is expected that only appropriate and medically necessary services will be rendered. We reserve the right to conduct prepayment and postpayment reviews to assess the medical appropriateness of the above-referenced procedures. Some of this protocol may not pertain to the patients you provide care to, as it may relate to products that are not available in your geographic area.

REFERENCES

We are not responsible for the continuing viability of web site addresses that may be listed in any references below.


55. Ackerman MJ, Priori SG, Willems S, et al. HRS/EHRA expert consensus statement on the state of genetic testing for the channelopathies and cardiomyopathies this document was developed as a partnership between the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) and the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA). Heart Rhythm. Aug 2011;8(8):1308-1339. PMID 21787999.