Local Coverage Determination (LCD):
MolDX: HLA-DQB1*06:02 Testing for Narcolepsy (L36544)

Links in PDF documents are not guaranteed to work. To follow a web link, please use the MCD Website.

Contractor Information

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LCD Information

Document Information

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Proposed LCD in Comment Period
N/A

Source Proposed LCD
DL36544

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CMS National Coverage Policy

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (SSA), §1862(a)(1)(A), states that no Medicare payment shall be made for items or services that “are not reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.”
Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, §1833(e), prohibits Medicare payment for any claim lacking the necessary documentation to process the claim.

42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §410.32 Diagnostic x-ray tests, diagnostic laboratory tests, and other diagnostic tests: Conditions.

CMS Internet Online Manual Pub. 100-02 (Medicare Benefit Policy Manual), Chapter 15, Section 80, “Requirements for Diagnostic X-Ray, Diagnostic Laboratory, and Other Diagnostic Tests”

CMS Internet-Only Manuals, Publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 16, §50.5 Jurisdiction of Laboratory Claims, 60.12 Independent Laboratory Specimen Drawing, 60.2. Travel Allowance.

CMS Internet Online Manual Pub. 100-04 (Medicare Claims Processing Manual), Chapter 23 (Section 10) “Reporting ICD Diagnosis and Procedure Codes”

**Coverage Guidance**

**Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity**

**Indications and Limitations of Coverage**

Based upon currently available information, HLA-DQB1*06:02 typing (81383) for the diagnosis or management of narcolepsy is considered experimental/investigational/unproven for all populations. Although research suggests a strong association between HLA-DQB1*06:02 and narcolepsy risk, HLA-DQB1*06:02 typing is insufficient to confirm a diagnosis of narcolepsy, rule out a diagnosis of narcolepsy or quantify risk for narcolepsy. Therefore, at this time there is no clinical utility for genetic testing or HLA-DQB1*06:02 typing in the diagnosis or treatment of narcolepsy.

**Background**

Narcolepsy is a sleep disorder characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness, cataplexy (sudden loss of voluntary muscle tone), and uncontrollable sleep episodes. Most cases of narcolepsy are sporadic, with symptoms beginning around the time of adolescence.

According to the International Classification of Sleep Disorders, Third Edition (ICSD-3) and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), narcolepsy is diagnosed by a combination of physical exam, medical history, polysomnogram, multiple sleep latency testing (MSLT), and low CSF hypocretin-1 levels. Current recommended treatment options include stimulants and antidepressants. At this time, treatment is aimed towards the control of symptoms and is not curative.¹²

Narcolepsy has a multifactorial etiology, likely caused by the interaction between genetic risk factors and environmental exposures. Research efforts to identify the genetic contributors to narcolepsy have focused on an association between certain human leukocyte antigen (HLA) haplotypes and narcolepsy risk. The HLA complex encodes greater than 200 genes responsible for the recognition of foreign antigens. These genes are highly polymorphic, and certain alleles have long been known to confer risk for autoimmune disorders.

A variation of the HLA-DQB1 gene called HLA-DQB1*06:02 has been strongly associated with narcolepsy, particularly in individuals who also have cataplexy and a loss of hypocretins. Several genetic association studies in ethnically diverse populations have found a robust association between narcolepsy and the HLA-DQB1*06:02 allele. However, 15 to 25% of unaffected individuals in the general population also carry this risk haplotype, suggesting that it is necessary but not sufficient for the development of narcolepsy.⁶ Additionally, persons with narcolepsy and cataplexy have been identified without the HLA-DQB1*06:02 marker.⁴ More recent studies further suggest that predisposition...
to narcolepsy may be the result of complex genetic associations between multiple risk alleles.\textsuperscript{11}

Despite multiple studies replicating the association between HLA-DQB1*06:02 and narcolepsy in different ethnic groups, the overall contribution of HLA variation to disease risk is low. Monozygotic twin studies have shown only partial concordance (25-31%), indicating that environmental factors play a large role in the etiology of narcolepsy.\textsuperscript{8}

Recent studies have suggested that exposure to streptococcus, H1N1, and the H1N1 vaccine may also increase the risk for narcolepsy, specifically among individuals with the HLA-DQB1*06:02 allele.\textsuperscript{3,14,4}

Although research suggests a strong association between HLA-DQB1*06:02 and narcolepsy risk, at this time there is no evidence for any diagnostic utility of HLA typing.\textsuperscript{5}

**Summary of Evidence**

N/A

**Analysis of Evidence**

*(Rationale for Determination)*

N/A

**General Information**

**Associated Information**

N/A

**Sources of Information**


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Bibliography

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Revision History Information

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<td>11/01/2019</td>
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<td>LCD is revised to change effective date from 9/15/16 to 10/01/16. Although the LCD was publicly viewable on the MCD, Noridian did not post notice of the LCD finalizing until August 11, 2016.</td>
<td>• Other (45 day notice of final LCD published to NHS website August</td>
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Associated Documents

Attachments
N/A

Related Local Coverage Documents
Article(s)
A57465 - Billing and Coding: MolDX: HLA-DQB1*06:02 Testing for Narcolepsy
LCD(s)
DL36544
- (MCD Archive Site)

Related National Coverage Documents
N/A

Public Version(s)
Updated on 01/29/2020 with effective dates 11/01/2019 - N/A
Updated on 10/09/2019 with effective dates 11/01/2019 - N/A
Updated on 08/03/2016 with effective dates 10/01/2016 - 10/31/2019
Updated on 07/13/2016 with effective dates 09/15/2016 - N/A

Keywords
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