

CONCERT GENETIC TESTING: LUNG DISORDERS

[See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.](#)

OVERVIEW

One of the most common forms of inherited lung disorders is alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD). AATD is an autosomal recessive genetic disorder that results in decreased production of the alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) protein, or production of abnormal types of the protein that are functionally deficient. Individuals with AATD have an increased risk to develop lung and liver disease. Genetic testing to diagnose AATD aids in directing proper treatment and identifying at-risk family members.

POLICY REFERENCE TABLE

Below is a list of higher volume tests and the associated laboratories for each coverage criteria section. This list is not all inclusive.

Coding Implications

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Coverage Criteria Sections	Example Tests (Labs)	Common CPT Codes	Common ICD Codes	Ref
Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency				
SERPINA1 Known Familial Variant Analysis	SERPINA1 Targeted Variant Analysis (PreventionGenetics)	81403	E88.01	1, 5
SERPINA1 Common Variant Analysis or Sequencing and/or Deletion/Duplication Analysis	Alpha-1 Antitrypsin (AAT) Mutation Analysis (Quest Diagnostics)	81332		
	SERPINA1 Full Gene Sequencing and Deletion/Duplication (Invitae)	81479		
Other Covered Lung Disorders				
Other Covered Lung Disorders	See list below	81400 through 81408		2, 3, 4

OTHER RELATED POLICIES

This policy document provides coverage criteria for Genetic Testing for Lung Disorders. Please refer to:

- **Genetic Testing: Multisystem Inherited Disorders, Intellectual Disability, and Developmental Delay** for coverage criteria related to diagnostic testing for cystic fibrosis and other multisystem inherited disorders.
- **Genetic Testing: General Approach to Genetic Testing** for coverage criteria related to genetic testing for lung disorders and disease that are not specifically discussed in this or another non-general policy.

CRITERIA

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that the specific genetic testing noted below is **medically necessary** when meeting the related criteria:

ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY

***SERPINA1* Known Familial Variant Analysis**

- I. *SERPINA1* targeted variant analysis for a known familial variant (81332, 81403) is considered **medically necessary** when:
 - A. The member/enrollee has a close relative with a known pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant in *SERPINA1*.
- II. *SERPINA1* targeted variant analysis for a known familial variant (81332, 81403) is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

***SERPINA1* Common Variant Analysis or Sequencing and/or Deletion/Duplication Analysis**

- I. *SERPINA1* common variant analysis (81332) or sequencing and/or deletion/duplication analysis (81479) to establish a diagnosis of alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) deficiency is considered **medically necessary** when:
 - A. The member/enrollee has abnormally low (less than 120 mg/dL) or borderline (90 to 140 mg/dL) alpha-1 antitrypsin levels (as measured by nephelometry), **AND**
 - B. Any of the following:
 1. Early-onset emphysema (45 years of age or younger), **OR**
 2. Emphysema in the absence of additional risk factor (e.g., smoking, occupational dust exposure), **OR**
 3. Emphysema with prominent basilar hyperlucency, **OR**
 4. Otherwise unexplained liver disease, **OR**
 5. Necrotizing panniculitis, **OR**
 6. C-ANCA positive vasculitis (i.e., granulomatosis with polyangiitis), **OR**
 7. Bronchiectasis without evident etiology, **OR**
 8. A sibling with known AAT deficiency.
- II. *SERPINA1* common variant analysis (81332) or sequencing and/or deletion/duplication analysis (81479) to establish a diagnosis of alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency is considered **investigational** for all other indications.

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OTHER COVERED LUNG DISORDERS

The following is a list of conditions that have a known genetic association. Due to their relative rareness, it may be appropriate to cover these genetic tests to establish or confirm a diagnosis.

- I. Genetic testing to establish or confirm one of the following genetic lung disorders to guide management is considered **medically necessary** when the member/enrollee demonstrates clinical features* consistent with the disorder (the list is not meant to be comprehensive, see II below):
 - A. [Familial Pulmonary Fibrosis](#)
 - B. [Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia](#)
 - C. Pulmonary lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM)
 - D. Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis (PAP)
- II. Genetic testing to establish or confirm the diagnosis of all other lung disorders not specifically discussed within this or another medical policy will be evaluated by the criteria outlined in *General Approach to Genetic Testing* (see policy for coverage criteria).

*Clinical features for a specific disorder may be outlined in resources such as [GeneReviews](#), [OMIM](#), [National Library of Medicine](#), [Genetics Home Reference](#), or other scholarly source.

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NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

1. Close relatives include first, second, and third degree blood relatives:
 - a. **First-degree relatives** are parents, siblings, and children
 - b. **Second-degree relatives** are grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and half siblings
 - c. **Third-degree relatives** are great grandparents, great aunts, great uncles, great grandchildren, and first cousins

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BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency - *SERPINA1* Known Familial Variant Analysis

Genetic Support Foundation

The Genetic Support Foundation's Genetics 101 information on inheritance patterns says the following about testing for familial pathogenic variants:

Genetic testing for someone who may be at risk for an inherited disease is always easier if we know the specific genetic cause. Oftentimes, the best way to find the genetic cause is to start by testing someone in the family who is known or strongly suspected to have the disease. If their testing is positive, then we can say that we have found the familial pathogenic (harmful) variant. We can use this as a marker to test other members/enrollees of the family to see who is also at risk.

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency - *SERPINA1* Common Variant Analysis or Sequencing and/or Deletion/Duplication Analysis

American Thoracic Society and European Respiratory Society

The American Thoracic Society and European Respiratory Society published a joint statement on the diagnosis and management of individuals with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (2003) which provided recommendations for diagnostic testing.

A normal range of plasma alpha-1 antitrypsin (measured via nephelometry) is 83/120 to 200/220 mg/dL. Individuals with borderline normal levels of plasma alpha-1 antitrypsin (90 to 140 mg/dL) or with abnormally low levels (below 120 mg/dL) should be evaluated for alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. (p. 826)

"The following features should prompt suspicion by physicians that their patient may be more likely to have AAT deficiency:

- Early-onset emphysema (age of 45 years or less)
- Emphysema in the absence of a recognized risk factor (smoking, occupational dust exposure, etc.)
- Emphysema with prominent basilar hyperlucency
- Otherwise unexplained liver disease
- Necrotizing panniculitis
- Anti-proteinase 3-positive vasculitis (C-ANCA [anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody]-positive vasculitis)

- Family history of any of the following: emphysema, bronchiectasis, liver disease, or panniculitis
- Bronchiectasis without evident etiology...” (p. 820)

The statement also recommended that individuals with a sibling with AAT deficiency should also be offered genetic testing. (p. 827)

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
Policy developed	03/23	03/23

REFERENCES

1. American Thoracic Society; European Respiratory Society. American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society statement: standards for the diagnosis and management of individuals with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2003;168(7):818-900. doi:10.1164/rccm.168.7.818
2. Adam MP, Ardinger HH, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2023. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1116/>
3. Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man, OMIM®. McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD). World Wide Web URL: <https://omim.org/>
4. MedlinePlus [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US). Available from: <https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/>.
5. Genetic Support Foundation. Genetics 101 Inheritance Patterns: Familial Pathogenic Variant. Accessed 10/4/2022. <https://geneticsupportfoundation.org/genetics-101/#>

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Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in

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The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

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This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members/enrollees. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members/enrollees. Members/enrollees should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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Note: For Medicaid member/enrollees, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take

precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

Note: For Medicare members/enrollees, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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