

PROVIDER ALERT

June 15, 2016



Medica Expands Coverage for 2 Test Procedures

Alert

Medica has recently reviewed two test procedures and is expanding coverage for them effective with June 15, 2016, dates of service. First, **digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT)** *is no longer considered investigative and therefore is now covered* when being used to rule out a diagnosis of breast cancer. DBT *remains investigative* when used as a screening tool for breast cancer.

Second, Medica recently reviewed **whole exome sequencing** and determined that this test *is no longer investigative* for a select population of patients. Whole exome sequencing, including trio testing, *is now covered* for phenotypically affected individuals when the test results will directly affect clinical decision-making and health outcomes and all of the following criteria are met:

- The test is ordered by a board-certified medical geneticist.
- The individual's phenotype is most likely explained by a genetic cause or other potential causes (e.g., environmental exposure, injury, infection) have been ruled out.
- Standard biochemical and genetic tests (e.g., karyotyping, single gene testing, chromosome microarray testing) have failed to identify a diagnosis.
- The individual has undergone pre-test genetic counseling and informed consent by a board-certified medical geneticist or licensed (where required) and board-certified genetic counselor not affiliated with the laboratory doing the testing.

Whole exome sequencing for all other indications *remains investigative and therefore not covered*. In addition, whole genome sequencing *remains investigative and therefore not covered*.

These benefit changes apply to all Medica products including government products unless a particular health plan (whether commercial, Medicare or Medicaid) requires different coverage.

Action

No action is required. The updated coverage policies related to these changes are available online. [See Medica's coverage policies](#) or call the Medica Provider Literature Request Line for printed copies, toll-free at 1-800-458-5512, option 1, then option 5, ext. 2-2355.

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