Noninvasive prenatal testing for pregnant women

Summary of Change

Wellpoint updated its medical policy to cover noninvasive prenatal testing (NIPT) for pregnant women with an average risk for carrying babies with trisomies 21, 18, and 13.

Why is this change necessary?

This policy is consistent with new guidelines established by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommending prenatal aneuploidy screening for all pregnant women, regardless of their age or other risk factors.

What is the impact of this change?

Wellpoint will cover DNA-based NIPTs for women with a singleton pregnancy of maternal age or oocyte age of 35 years or older at the time of delivery, or if a fetal ultrasound indicates an increased risk of aneuploidy.

Wellpoint will also cover NIPT if a prior pregnancy had a history of a trisomy; for a positive screening test during the first or second trimester that indicates an increased risk for T13 or T21; or for screening after pretest counseling from a genetic counselor or from the prenatal care physician or primary healthcare provider.

CPT® codes 81420 and 81507 no longer require preauthorization.

CPT codes 81422 and 81479 are precertified by AIM Specialty Health®. To obtain this authorization, you can go directly to AIM's website at **www.aimspecialtyhealth.com/goweb**, or go to **https://www.elevancehealth.com/** and follow the link to AIM. You can also contact AIM at **800-714 -0040**. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

Note: Genetic counseling should be a component of a decision to perform genetic testing.

Medically necessary

Cell-free fetal DNA-based prenatal screening for fetal aneuploidy (trisomy 13, 18, and 21) is considered medically necessary for women with a current single gestation pregnancy.

Cell-free fetal DNA-based prenatal testing for fetal sex determination is considered medically necessary for singleton pregnancies at increased risk of a sex (X)-linked condition or congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

Not medically necessary

Cell-free fetal DNA-based prenatal screening for fetal aneuploidy (trisomy 13, 18, and 21) is considered not medically necessary for individuals not meeting the criteria above, including women with a current multiple gestation pregnancy.

Cell-free fetal DNA-based prenatal testing for fetal sex determination is considered not medically necessary for pregnancies without an increased risk of a sex (X)-linked condition or congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

Cell-free fetal DNA-based prenatal testing is considered not medically necessary for all other indications, including testing for microdeletion syndromes.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Experience representative or call Provider Services **at 833-707-0868** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.