Biomarkers (Novel) in Risk Assessment and Management of Cardiovascular Disease

I. Policy

Numerous nontraditional lipid and other biomarker measurements have been proposed for use in improving risk prediction for cardiovascular disease. There is no high-quality evidence that use of these markers lead to health outcome improvements when used in place of traditional lipid targets such as LDL. Because of the deficiencies in the literature around these issues, the use of these novel lipid risk markers does not meet the criteria for medical necessity.

University Health Alliance (UHA) does not reimburse for the biomarkers listed below (Novel) in risk assessment and routine management of cardiovascular disease.

II. Criteria/Guidelines

A. Measurement of the following novel risk factors is not covered as an adjunct to LDL cholesterol in the risk assessment and routine management of cardiovascular disease:

1. Apolipoprotein B,
2. Apolipoprotein A-1,
3. Apolipoprotein E,
4. B-type natriuretic peptide,
5. Cystatin C,
6. Fibrinogen,
7. High-density lipoprotein (HDL) subclass,
8. Leptin,
9. Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) subclass
10. Lipoprotein A.

B. NOTE:
This UHA payment policy is a guide to coverage, the need for prior authorization and other administrative directives. It is not meant to provide instruction in the practice of medicine and it should not deter a provider from expressing their judgment.

Even though this payment policy may indicate that a particular service or supply is considered covered, specific provider contract terms and/or members’ individual benefit plans may apply, and this policy is not a guarantee of payment. UHA reserves the right to apply this payment policy to all UHA companies and subsidiaries.

UHA understands that opinions about and approaches to clinical problems may vary. Questions concerning medical necessity (see Hawaii Revised Statutes §432E-1.4) are welcome. A provider may request that UHA reconsider the application of the medical necessity criteria in light of any supporting documentation.

III. Policy History

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