

Chromosomal Microarray Analysis Medical Necessity Guideline

Medical Necessity Guideline (MNG) Title: Chromosomal Microarray Analysis		
MNG #: 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CCA Senior Care Options (HMO D-SNP) (MA) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CCA One Care (FIDE SNP) (MA)	Prior Authorization Needed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (always required) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (only in certain situations. See this MNG for details) <input type="checkbox"/> No
Benefit Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	Approval Date: 09/01/2022	Effective Date: 12/24/2022; 01/01/2025; 03/12/2026
Last Revised Date: 09/14/2023; 11/14/2024; 03/25/2025; 03/12/2026	Next Annual Review Date: 09/01/2023; 09/14/2024; 11/14/2025; 03/12/2027	Retire Date:

OVERVIEW:

Chromosomal microarray analysis (CMA) is a high-resolution, whole-genome screening technique that measures gains and losses of DNA throughout the human genome. It is used to identify chromosomal aneuploidies, large changes in the structure of the chromosomes, and submicroscopic abnormalities for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of congenital anomalies, autism spectrum disorder, developmental delays, and intellectual disabilities.

The two types of CMA genetic tests that can be used for prenatal diagnosis are comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) arrays and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays. Both methods can use DNA samples from uncultured amniocytes (from amniotic fluid), chorionic villus cells, cord blood, and products of conception by amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling. CGH arrays help to detect copy number variants (CNVs) by comparing the fetal DNA sample with a normal reference. They are labeled with two different colored fluorescent dyes, combined, and then hybridized to an array platform. Thereafter, the relative intensities of the different colors are compared using bioinformatics tools. Signals of higher hybridization reflect cases with duplications and signals of lower hybridization reflect cases with deletions. SNP arrays help to identify triploidy, uniparental disomy, consanguinity, maternal cell contamination, and *mosaicism* by analyzing one specific DNA test sample. That one DNA test sample is hybridized to the array platform and signal intensities are detected in a similar manner as in CGH arrays.

Compared with conventional karyotyping, CMA arrays have higher diagnostic yield, increased sensitivity for cytogenetic abnormalities, faster availability of results, and better ability to obtain results from uncultured cells. CMA arrays are the preferred type of testing for fetal structural abnormalities and early fetal loss to confirm the diagnosis and to determine the precise genomic coordinates and probability of inheritance. Despite the advantages, CMA arrays are limited by their inability to detect genetic events that do not affect the relative copy-number of DNA sequences, low-level mosaicism, tumor-specific changes, tetraploidies, duplications and deletions below the detection levels, and *balanced chromosomal arrangements*. As such, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommend comprehensive patient pre-test and post-test genetic counselling prior to the initiation of CMA.

Chromosomal Microarray Analysis Medical Necessity Guideline

DEFINITIONS:

Aneuploidy – The presence of an abnormal (i.e., higher or lower) number of chromosomes in a cell, instead of the usual 46.

Balanced Chromosome Rearrangement: A chromosome rearrangement that does not result in deletion or duplication of genetic material. Examples include inversions and translocations.

Chromosomal Microarray Analysis (CMA): A method of measuring gains and losses of DNA throughout the human genome. It can identify chromosomal aneuploidy and other large changes in the structure of chromosomes that would otherwise be identified by standard karyotype analysis, as well as submicroscopic abnormalities that are too small to be detected by traditional modalities. This is also known as comparative genomic hybridization.

Comparative Genomic Hybridization: Type of CMA that combines chromosome and fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH) to detect aneuploidies, microdeletion, and microduplication disorders.

Copy Number Variants (CNVs): Duplicated or deleted sections of DNA of at least 1,000 base pairs in size that differ from a representative reference genome. This causes birth defects or neurodevelopmental problems. CNVs can be qualified as pathogenic or benign to clarify clinical relevance. In the context of prenatal diagnosis, the probability of finding a pathogenic CNV is highly correlated with the presence of structural fetal abnormalities.

Cytogenetic Abnormalities: Genetic defects that involve large regions of chromosomes rather than small pieces of DNA. These could be numerical abnormalities, which include aneuploidies, hypodiploidies, hyperdiploidies, and polyploidies; or structural abnormalities, which refer to deletion, duplication, triplication, amplification, translocations, inversions, insertions, and marker chromosomes.

Mosaicism: The presence of two or more populations of cells with different characteristics within one tissue or organ. It is a DNA variation in which a single nucleotide in the genome sequence is altered. But it may or may not cause disease.

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism: DNA variation in which a single nucleotide in the genome sequence is altered and may/may not cause disease.

Tetraploidy – A chromosomal abnormality characterized by the presence of four sets of chromosomes, instead of the usual two sets.

DECISION GUIDELINES:

Clinical Coverage Criteria:

CCA may cover chromosomal microarray testing using comparative genomic hybridization microarray testing or single nucleotide polymorphism microarray analysis when the following criteria are met:

1. The member is undergoing invasive prenatal diagnostic testing (e.g., amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling); or
2. A member with a fetus with one or more major structural abnormalities identified on ultrasonographic examination and the member is undergoing invasive prenatal diagnosis. This test typically can replace the need for fetal karyotype; or

Chromosomal Microarray Analysis Medical Necessity Guideline

3. There is intrauterine fetal demise or stillbirth ≥ 20 weeks of gestational age, and the member desires cytogenetic analysis of fetal tissue (i.e., amniotic fluid, placenta, or products of conception) because of the test's increased likelihood of obtaining results and improved detection of causative abnormalities; or
4. the member has had two or more miscarriages at ≤ 20 weeks;

AND

5. Comprehensive genetic counselling has been performed pretest, and plans to be performed posttest, by an obstetrician–gynecologist or other health care provider with genetics expertise regarding the benefits, limitations, and results of chromosomal microarray analysis; and
6. Informed consent has been obtained, which includes a discussion of the potential to identify findings of uncertain significance, nonpaternity, consanguinity, and adult-onset disease.

LIMITATIONS/EXCLUSIONS:

CCA will not cover and does not consider chromosomal microarray analysis testing to be medically necessary in any of the following circumstances (but not limited to):

1. In cases of a single miscarriage or recurrent miscarriages with pregnancy loss < 20 weeks of gestation where the fetus is structurally normal, or pregnancy losses where structural condition of the pregnancy(ies) is unknown.
2. An obvious diagnosis, genetic disorder, or metabolic derangement is responsible for the obstetric ultrasound findings or pregnancy loss (including stillbirth),, based on a comprehensive history and exams, including
 - prenatal and birth history, if available;
 - family history which, if available, includes a pedigree of three generations or more;
 - a comprehensive physical, neurological, and behavioral exam;
 - and laboratory testing, imaging, and consultations, if indicated by history and physical.
3. For preimplantation genetic testing and diagnosis.
4. The routine use of whole-genome or whole-exome sequencing for prenatal diagnosis is not recommended outside of the context of clinical trials until sufficient peer-reviewed data and validation studies are published.
5. Chromosomal microarray analysis should not be ordered without informed consent, which should include discussion of the potential to identify findings of uncertain significance, nonpaternity, consanguinity, and adult-onset disease.

CODING:

When applicable, a list(s) of codes requiring prior authorization is provided. This list is for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment.

Chromosomal Microarray Analysis Medical Necessity Guideline

CPT/HCPCS Code	CODE DESCRIPTION
81228	Cytogenomic constitutional (genome-wide) microarray analysis; interrogation of genomic regions for copy number variants [e.g., bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) or oligo-based comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) microarray analysis]
81229	Cytogenomic constitutional (genome-wide) microarray analysis; interrogation of genomic regions for copy number and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) variants for chromosomal abnormalities

Disclaimer:

Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA) follows applicable Medicare and Medicaid regulations and uses evidence based InterQual® criteria, when available, to review prior authorization requests for medical necessity. This Medical Necessity Guideline (MNG) applies to all CCA Products unless a more expansive and applicable CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), or state-specific medical necessity guideline exists. Medical Necessity Guidelines are published to provide a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. CCA makes coverage decisions on a case-by-case basis by considering the individual member's health care needs. If at any time an applicable CMS LCD or NCD or state-specific MNG is more expansive than the criteria set forth herein, the NCD, LCD, or state-specific MNG criteria shall supersede these criteria.

Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. This Medical Necessity Guideline is subject to all applicable Plan Policies and Guidelines, including requirements for prior authorization and other requirements in Provider's agreement with the Plan (including complying with Plan's Provider Manual specifications).

This Medical Necessity Guideline is not a rigid rule. As with all CCA's criteria, the fact that a member does not meet these criteria does not, in and of itself, indicate that no coverage can be issued for these services. Providers are advised, however, that if they request services for any member who they know does not meet our criteria, the request should be accompanied by clear and convincing documentation of medical necessity. The preferred type of documentation is the letter of medical necessity, indicating that a request should be covered either because there is supporting science indicating medical necessity [supporting literature (full text preferred) should be attached to the request], or describing the member's unique clinical circumstances, and describing why this service or supply will be more effective and/or less costly than another service which would otherwise be covered. Note that both supporting scientific evidence and a description of the member's unique clinical circumstances will generally be required.

Chromosomal Microarray Analysis Medical Necessity Guideline

REFERENCES:

1. Medicare, Local Coverage Determination (L35000): Molecular Pathology Procedures. Retrieved from <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=35000>
2. Medicare, Local Coverage Article (A56199): Billing and Coding – Molecular Pathology Procedures. Retrieved from <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=56199&ver=108>
3. MassHealth, Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination for Chromosomal Microarray Analysis (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-medical-necessity-determination-for-chromosomal-microarray-analysis/download>
4. MassHealth, 130 CMR 401.000: Independent Laboratory Services, Subchapter 4. Retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/doc/independent-clinical-laboratory-regulations/download>
5. MassHealth, 101 CMR 320.000, Rates for Clinical Laboratory Services (9/1/2024). Retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/doc/101-cmr-320-rates-for-clinical-laboratory-services/download>
6. Committee on Genetics and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. (2016). Committee Opinion No.682: Microarrays and next-generation sequencing technology: The use of advanced genetic diagnostic tools in obstetrics and gynecology. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 186(6): e262-e268. Retrieved from https://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/fulltext/2016/12000/committee_opinion_no_682_summary_microarrays_and.52.aspx
7. Dugoff, L., Norton, M. & Kuller, J. (2016). The use of chromosomal microarray for prenatal diagnosis. *The American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 215(4): 2-9. Retrieved from <https://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378%2816%2930450-1/fulltext>
8. Gardner, C., Wellesley, D., Kilby, M. & Kerr, B. (2015). *Recommendations for the use of chromosome microarray in pregnancy*. <https://www.rcpath.org/static/06664c28-0f90-4230-86158c91fea14be6/Recommendations-for-the-use-of-chromosome-microarray-in-pregnancy.pdf>
9. Hardardottir, H., Jolanda van Zuuren, E. & Ehrlich, A. (Updated 2023). *Prenatal screening and diagnosis of neural tube defects*. Retrieved from <https://www.dynamed.com/prevention/prenatal-screening-and-diagnosis-of-neural-tube-defects#GUID-48D166B4-6738-431A-87C3-EB968D33057E>
10. Kirmse, B. & Barron, S. (Updated 2022). *Microdeletion and microduplication syndromes*. Retrieved from <https://www.dynamed.com/condition/microdeletion-and-microduplication-syndromes#GUID-A0691D75-C82D-46C3-BD76-828C91289A92>
11. Miller, D. (Last updated: Jul 31, 2024). *Prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal imbalance: Chromosomal microarray*. Retrieved from <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/prenatal-diagnosis-of-chromosomal-imbalance-chromosomal-microarray>
12. Schrijver, I. & Zehnder, J. (Last updated: Aug 10, 2023). *Tools for genetics and genomics: Cytogenetics and molecular genetics*. Retrieved from <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/tools-for-genetics-and-genomics-cytogenetics-and-molecular-genetics>
13. Shao, L., Akkari, Y., Cooley, L., Miller, D., Seifert, B., Wilff, D. & Mikhail, F. (2021). ACMG technical standard: Chromosomal microarray analysis, including constitutional and neoplastic disease applications, 2021 revision: A technical standard of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics. *Genetics in Medicine*, 23(10): 1818-1829. Retrieved from [https://www.gimjournal.org/article/S1098-3600\(21\)05128-5/pdf](https://www.gimjournal.org/article/S1098-3600(21)05128-5/pdf)
14. South, S., Lee, C., Lamb, A., Higgins, A. & Kearney, H. (2013). ACMG standards and guidelines for constitutional Cytogenomic microarray analysis, including postnatal and prenatal applications: Revision 2013. *Genetics in Medicine*, 15(11): 901-909. Retrieved from [https://www.gimjournal.org/article/S1098-3600\(21\)02687-3/fulltext](https://www.gimjournal.org/article/S1098-3600(21)02687-3/fulltext)


Chromosomal Microarray Analysis Medical Necessity Guideline

15. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (Reaffirmed 2023). *Microarrays and next-generation sequencing technology: The use of advanced genetic diagnostic tools in obstetrics and gynecology*. Retrieved from <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2016/12/microarrays-and-next-generation-sequencing-technology-the-use-of-advanced-genetic-diagnostic-tools-in-obstetrics-and-gynecology>
16. Warren, M., Fedorowicz, Z. & DeGeorge, K. (Updated 04 Oct 2024). *Routine prenatal care*. Retrieved from <https://www.dynamed.com/management/routine-prenatal-care-36#GUID-D76A9560-0BC9-414E-957A-BA08FF0F9DDB>

REVISION LOG:

REVISION DATE	DESCRIPTION
03/12/2026	Annual Review. Added Clinical Criteria Coverage 2.4 and expanded language on Limitation 2. to reflect MassHealth Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination coverage and language.
03/25/2025	Template Update
12/17/2024	Utilization Management Committee approval
11/14/2024	Added 2 definitions; Added 2 Clinical Coverage Criteria, and expounded on 2 Clinical Coverage Criteria; Removed requirement for comprehensive history and exams in Limitation 2; Added 2 Limitations; Removed Authorization section; Formatted template to current.
09/14/2023	No changes

APPROVALS:

Jeffrey Sedlack	Senior Medical Director Utilization Review and Medical Policy
CCA Clinical Lead	Title
	3/12/2026
Signature	Date
CCA Senior Operational Lead	Title
Signature	Date
CCA CMO or Designee	Title