Policy: Genetic screening for mutations related to breast cancer (BRCA-1 and BRCA-2) in high-risk patients is reimbursable under QualCare, provided that conditions in the Procedure below are met.

Objective: To ensure proper & consistent reimbursement and to allow members who need to make decisions, which may be impacted by knowledge of genetic susceptibility to breast cancer, to do so in the most informed manner possible.

Procedure: Implicit in this policy is that BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 testing will be covered only when the information will be used to manage the medical care of the QualCare member (e.g., to aid in deciding on prophylactic mastectomy and/or prophylactic oophorectomy and/or prophylactic chemotherapy). Patients whose BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 tests will be covered must meet the following criteria:

1. There are two or more first or second degree relatives (parent, child, sibling, grandparent, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew) with breast or ovarian cancer, on the same side of the family, irrespective of age at diagnosis

   OR
2. There are fewer than two affected relatives but ANY of the following is met:

a. There are multiple primary or bilateral breast cancers in the patient or one family member OR

b. The patient has had ovarian cancer at any age OR

c. A family member has been identified with a detectable BRCA-1 or BRCA-2 mutation OR

d. There are one or more cases of ovarian cancer at any age AND one or more members on the same side of the family with breast cancer at any age (i.e., a family history suggesting an autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance of breast or ovarian cancer) OR

e. There is breast or ovarian cancer diagnosed at age 50 or below in a first- or second-degree relative OR

f. There is breast cancer in a male patient or in a male first- or second-degree relative OR

g. The patient is at increased risk for specific mutation(s) due to ethnic background (Ashkenazi [Eastern European] Jewish) AND has one or more relatives with breast cancer or ovarian cancer at any age OR

h. The patient was diagnosed with breast cancer at 50 years of age or less. OR

i. The individual’s family history is either incomplete or not available because the individual is adopted.
3. Genetic testing for mutations related to breast cancer is considered NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY for minors less than 18 years of age, due to lack of effective interventions to be applied during childhood.

4. Appropriate pre- and post-test counseling should be provided in connection with all genetic mutations related to breast cancer.

5. Genetic testing for mutations related to breast cancer will only be covered if performed at a qualified (CLIA) laboratory.

References:


New York State Department of Health. Am I at Risk for Having a BRCA1 or BRCA2 Mutation? Available at http://www.health/state.ny.us.diseases/cancer/genetics/am_I_at_risk.htm (revised January 2008) accessed 03/17/08


*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.*