Subject: Specimen Provenance Testing in Laboratory and Surgical Pathology*

Effective Date: January 27, 2015

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Specimen provenance testing in surgical specimens is NOT reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To ensure proper and consistent reimbursement.

Procedure: Requests for coverage of specimen provenance testing in surgical specimens via any methodology including short tandem repeat analysis (such as the know error® DNA Specimen Provenance Assay (DSPA, Strand Diagnostics™; Indianapolis, IN) will be denied, as it is not considered medically necessary. Due to lack of specific coding, CPT codes 81479 or 84999 may be submitted for this procedure. This testing is a laboratory quality control procedure and in itself does not provide a diagnosis.

References:


Dunn EJ, Moga PJ. Patient misidentification in laboratory medicine: a qualitative analysis of 227 root cause analysis reports in the Veterans Health Administration. Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2010;134:244-255


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