Medical Policy

**Measurement of Lipoprotein-Associated Phospholipase A2 - Lp-PLA2 - in the Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk**

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**Policy Number: 558**

BCBSA Reference Number: 2.04.32
NCD/LCD: NA

**Related Policies**
- Novel Lipid Risk Factors in Risk Assessment and Management of Cardiovascular Disease, #283
- Genetic Testing for Lipoprotein(a) Variants(s) as a Decision Aid for Aspirin Treatment, #339
- Gene Expression Testing in the Evaluation of Patients with Stable Ischemic Heart Disease, #349
- Genotyping for 9p21 Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms to Predict Risk of Cardiovascular Disease or Aneurysm, #340
- Homocysteine Testing in the Screening, Diagnosis, and Management of Cardiovascular Disease and Venous Thromboembolic Disease #016
- KIF6 Genotyping for Predicting Cardiovascular Risk and or Effectiveness of Statin Therapy, #129

**Policy**

**Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity**
**Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members**

Measurement of lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) is **INVESTIGATIONAL**.

**Prior Authorization Information**

Pre-service approval is required for all inpatient services for all products.
See below for situations where prior authorization may be required or may not be required for outpatient services.
Yes indicates that prior authorization is required.
No indicates that prior authorization is not required.
N/A indicates that this service is primarily performed in an inpatient setting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outpatient</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial PPO and Indemnity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicare HMO BlueSM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicare PPO BlueSM</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
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</table>
CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD Codes
Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member’s contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

CPT Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83698</td>
<td>Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 (Lp- PLA2)</td>
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Description
Atherosclerosis represents, in part, an inflammatory process that has gained considerable interest in measurement of proinflammatory factors as part of cardiovascular disease risk assessment. Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) (also known as platelet-activating factor acetylhydrolase) is an enzyme that hydrolyzes phospholipids and is primarily associated with low-density lipoproteins.

Accumulating evidence has suggested that Lp-PLA2 is a biomarker of coronary artery disease and may have a proinflammatory role in the progression of atherosclerosis.

Low-density lipoproteins have been identified as the major atherogenic lipoproteins and have long been identified by the National Cholesterol Education Project as the primary target of cholesterol-lowering therapy.

Examples of tests that measure Lp-PLA2 biomarkers to assess cardiovascular risk include the PLAC® Test from diaDexus, Inc. All tests that measure Lp-PLA2 levels are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

Summary
Risk prediction studies corroborate previous research demonstrating that Lp-PLA2 is an independent predictor of cardiovascular disease but do not demonstrate that health outcomes are improved as a result of measuring Lp-PLA2. Thus, this is considered investigational.

Policy History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/2018</td>
<td>New references added from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2017</td>
<td>New references added from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/2015</td>
<td>New references added from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/2014</td>
<td>New references added from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/2013</td>
<td>New references from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2011-4/2012</td>
<td>Medical policy ICD 10 remediation: Formatting, editing and coding updates. &lt;br&gt; No changes to policy statements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/2011</td>
<td>Reviewed - Medical Policy Group – Cardiology and Pulmonology. &lt;br&gt; No changes to policy statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20/2010</td>
<td>New policy, effective 10/20/2010 describing ongoing non-coverage.</td>
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Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies
Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:
- Medical Policy Terms of Use
- Managed Care Guidelines
- Indemnity/PPO Guidelines
- Clinical Exception Process
- Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines
References


34. Rosenson RS. Fenofibrate reduces lipoprotein associated phospholipase A2 mass and oxidative lipids in hypertriglyceridemic subjects with the metabolic syndrome. *Am Heart J.* Mar 2008;155(3):499 e499-416. PMID 18294485


