Change to National Coverage Determination may affect your Medicare coverage

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) sometimes change the coverage rules that apply to an item or service under Medicare. When this happens, CMS issues a National Coverage Determination, or NCD.

NCDs tell us:
- What benefits and services are covered
- What benefits and services are changing
- What Medicare will pay for an item or service

CMS recently issued an update to the NCD that applies to the following service:

Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)

Here is a description of the change to the NCD. This affects services given on or after January 27, 2020
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an NCD to update Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Effective for services performed on or after January 27, 2020, CMS has determined that NGS as a diagnostic laboratory test is reasonable and necessary and covered nationally for patients with germline (inherited) cancer, when performed in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement.

1. Patient has the following conditions:
   - ovarian or breast cancer
   - a clinical indication for germline (inherited) testing for hereditary breast or ovarian cancer
   - a risk factor for germline (inherited) breast or ovarian cancer
   - not been previously tested with the same germline test using NGS for the same germline genetic content

2. The diagnostic laboratory test using NGS must have the following:
   - the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approval or clearance
   - results provided to the treating physician for management of the patient using a report
   - template to specify treatment options

The test needs to be performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory, and ordered by a treating physician. Results are provided to the treating physician for management of the patient and when the patient has the following:

   - any cancer diagnosis
   - a clinical indication for germline (inherited) testing of hereditary cancers
   - a risk factor for germline (inherited) cancer
   - not been previously tested with the same germline test using NGS for the same germline genetic content
We’re here to help you

Mercy Care Advantage is an HMO SNP with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Arizona Medicaid Program. Enrollment in Mercy Care Advantage depends on contract renewal. This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. The formulary, pharmacy network, and/or provider network may change at any time. You will receive notice when necessary. See Evidence of Coverage for a complete description of benefits, exclusions, limitations and conditions of coverage. If you have questions, Mercy Care Advantage Member Services representatives are available to help you 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Please call 602-586-1730 or 1-877-436-5288 (TTY 711).