Center for Translational & Policy Research on Precision Medicine

TRANSPERS Program on Coverage and Reimbursement: Systematic Evidence Reviews of Payer Coverage Policies

A major focus of the TRANSPERS Center is coverage, reimbursement, and policy decisions by payers on Precision Medicine. There is no publicly available source that compiles and compares coverage policies across payers and thus there is a gap in understanding what genomic tests are covered by payers. To address this gap, we conduct systematic reviews of payer coverage policies to assess which tests are covered by payers, what factors are discussed in policies, and how coverage policies vary across clinical scenarios, populations, and payers.

We examine a range of coverage policies across multiple private and public payers and pertaining to a broad range of tests and testing indications. We have conducted payer coverage analyses on BRCA1/2, non-invasive prenatal testing, hereditary cancer panels, exome sequencing in pediatric patients, tumor sequencing, and circulating tumor DNA in cancer.

We use a systematic and validated approach:

- identify and obtain publicly available policies from payer websites
- abstract key variables including coverage/non-coverage
- detailed clinical indications
- specific tests covered
- analyze coverage by clinical indications, specific tests, and payer types.

TRANSPERS

Launched in 2008, the Center for Translational and Policy Research on Precision Medicine (TRANSPERS) at the University of California, San Francisco is a first-of-its-kind research center dedicated to developing evidence-based information for patients, providers, industry, researchers, and policymakers to objectively assess how precision medicine can be most beneficial and efficient in improving health outcomes. The TRANSPERS Center has been funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and several foundations.

Accomplishments

Since 2015, our research has resulted in numerous peer-reviewed publications in major journals. Our work has been widely cited and used by researchers, payers, industry, organizations, and clinicians. We are continuing to work on novel genomic technologies as they emerge. In one instance, our 2020 paper in Journal of National Comprehensive Cancer Network addressed private and Medicare coverage policies for circulating tumor DNA testing for cancer management.

For more information: https://pharm.ucsf.edu/transpers/grants-programs/payer-coverage

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