



Medical Policy: **Genetic Information Confidentiality and Use**

# [Policy Number]

Effective January 1, 2000

Revised: February 2005

Revised: Nov 1, 2011; April 17, 2012

Reviewed/No Updates: 1/28/13; 2/13/14; 2/12/15;

2/11/16; 2/9/17; 2/8/18; 2/14/19; 2/13/20

## GENETIC INFORMATION-CONFIDENTIALITY AND USE

Genetic Characteristic means either of the following:

1. Any scientifically or medically identifiable gene or chromosome, or combination or alteration thereof, that is known to be a cause of a disease or disorder in a person or his or her offspring, or that is determined to be associated with a statistically increased risk of development of a disease or disorder, and that is presently not associated with any symptoms of any disease or disorder.
2. Inherited characteristics that may derive from the individual or family member, that are known to be a cause of a disease or disorder in a person or his or her offspring, or that are determined to be associated with a statistically increased risk of development of a disease or disorder, and that are presently not associated with any symptoms of any disease or disorder.

### Confidentiality of Genetic Information

Genetic information is confidential. VCHCP staff may not disclose the results of a test for a genetic characteristic to a third party in a manner that identifies or provides identifying characteristics of the person or person's offspring to whom the test results apply, unless a *Consent for Release of Member/Patient Information* is signed by the member (or the member's parent or guardian, if the member is a minor child).

### Use of Genetic Information

Genetic information should only be sought or used by Plan staff to arrange for the provision of covered benefits to members. An individual's medical condition includes his/her genetic characteristics, as defined above. The plan does not discriminate in employment, enrollment, cancellation, non-renewal or in the provision of covered benefits on the basis of an individual's medical condition or genetic characteristics or those indicated for the person's offspring.

**A. Attachment:** None

**B. References:**

*California Civil Code Section 56.17*  
*Health and Safety Code Section 1374.7*  
*Government Code, Section 12926.*



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**C. History**

Reviewers: R. Ashby MD, P. Neumann Ins. Adm; Date: 01/01/01  
 Reviewed/Revised: S. Haas, MD & C. Wilhelmy MD; Date: Aug 2005  
 Committee Reviews: UM: August 8, 2005; QAC: August 23, 2005  
 Reviewed/Revised: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: 11/1/11  
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 Reviewed/No Changes: Catherine Sanders, MD  
 Committee Reviews: UM: February 13, 2014; QAC: February 25, 2014  
 Reviewed/No Updates: Catherine Sanders, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 12, 2015; QAC February 24, 2015  
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 Committee Review: UM: February 11, 2016; QAC: February 23, 2016  
 Reviewed/No Updates by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 9, 2017; QAC: February 28, 2017  
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 Reviewed/No Updates by: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 13, 2020; QAC: February 25, 2020

Revision Date	Content Revised (Yes/No)	Contributors	Review/Revision Notes
2/9/17	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/8/18	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/14/19	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/13/20	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review