Cost

• The cost to draft a whole human genome sequence:
  – 2006: $14,000,000
  – 2015: $4,000
  – 2018: less than $1,000
Cigna Clinical Policy

• Considerable interest in developing policy in 2012 with BRCA testing becoming mainstream.
• Created a partnership with InformedDNA to inform precision medicine policy and guide clinical determinations.
• InformedDNA provides competencies, genetic counselors and offers research for coverage policy.
• As part of the precision medicine policy, Cigna requires that genetic counseling be done pre and post testing.
• The genetic counselor must be independent, not affiliated with the lab performing testing.
• Counseling can be completed by the ordering provider.
• If the genetic counselor agrees that testing is appropriate, testing will be approved by Cigna even if the request does not satisfy medical necessity guidelines.
• Counseling can be completed in person or telephonically within 24-48 hours.
Goals of Cigna’s precision medicine clinical policy include:

- Ensuring patients receive appropriate testing.
- Necessary follow-up.
- A clearly defined plan of care.
• Potential concerns:
  – Given the rapid advancement of precision medicine, many tests exist without a clear understanding of what to do with the results.
  – Other concerns include subjecting patients to unnecessary subsequent tests, invasive procedures, anxiety and costs.
Future Directions

• Prenatal testing – continues to advance, no genetic counseling required.
• Molecular Profiling – many cancers with increased understanding of tumor drivers.
• Pharmacogenomics – no screening approval currently, but continuing to assess.
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