

# Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing Reimbursement in Pediatric Critical Care

## Real-World Evidence

Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing (rWGS®) has been shown to be clinically useful in the intensive care setting for pediatric patients meeting clinical criteria.

While initial studies evaluating clinical utility of rWGS focused on neonates, in recent years research studies and real-world demonstration programs have shown the utility of rWGS to evaluate undiagnosed genetic disease and inform care management in older infants (up to 1 year old) and kids (up to 18).<sup>1-6</sup>

With the transition of rWGS from a research tool to a clinical diagnostic technology, advocates are working to influence the insurance coverage landscape and support broader utilization of rWGS in the pediatric critical care setting.

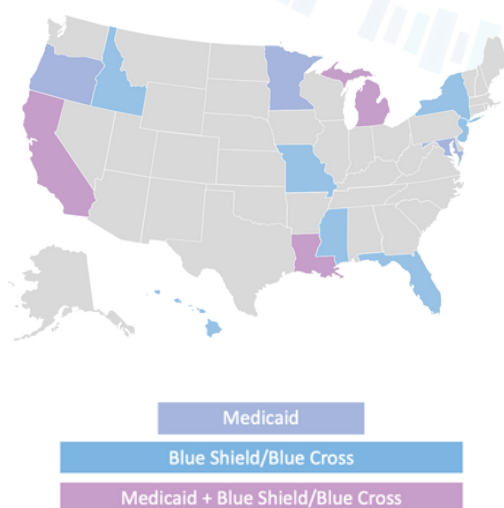
Coverage is improving and while most Medicaid programs limit coverage up to 1 year of age, these patients may be admitted to PICUs and CVICUs and physicians may have access to this testing of which they were not yet aware. Additionally, other plans cover rWGS up to the age of 18. Learn more below.

## Which plans may cover rWGS in the PICU?

Table 1: Public Insurance Coverage of rWGS

State	Effective Date	Criteria
Michigan	Sept 1, 2021	≤ 1 year; ICU (NICU/ <b>PICU</b> /CVICU)
Minnesota	April 1, 2022	No age restriction for pediatric critical care unit; ICU (NICU/ <b>PICU</b> /CVICU)
Louisiana	Aug 1, 2022	≤ 1 year; ICU (NICU/ <b>PICU</b> /CVICU) or Pediatric Care Unit
California	Jan 1, 2022	≤ 1 year; ICU (NICU/ <b>PICU</b> /CVICU)
Oregon	Jan 1, 2022	≤ 1 year; ICU (NICU/ <b>PICU</b> /CVICU)

Separate payment outside of the inpatient bundled rate is indicated by Michigan Medicaid, Minnesota Medicaid MCHPs, and Louisiana Medicaid.



Ready to Get Started?

Contact RCIGM for resources on rWGS® to share with decision makers within your institution.

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**Table 2: Private Insurance Coverage of rWGS**

<b>Plan</b>	<b>Policy No.</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
BCBS Federal Employee Program	2.04.102	The patient should be critically ill and in the NICU or PICU when the test is ordered but may be discharged before results are delivered
BCBS of HI - Hawaii Medical Service Association	MM.02.035	Critically ill infants in intensive care units with a suspected genetic disorder of unknown etiology
BCBS of Louisiana	00389	The patient should be critically ill and in the NICU or PICU when the test is ordered but may be discharged before results are delivered
BCBS of Michigan		Critically ill infants and children in neonatal or pediatric intensive care with a suspected genetic disorder of unknown etiology
BCBS of Mississippi	A.2.04.102	Critically ill infants and children in neonatal or pediatric intensive care with a suspected genetic disorder of unknown etiology
BCBS of Western New York	204102	Critically ill infants with a suspected genetic disorder of unknown etiology following standard workup
Blue Cross of Idaho	MP 2.04.102	Critically ill infants and children in neonatal or pediatric intensive care with a suspected genetic disorder of unknown etiology
Blue Shield of California	2.04.102	Critically ill infants or children less than 18 years of age
Blue Shield of Northeastern New York	204102	Critically ill infants with a suspected genetic disorder of unknown etiology following standard workup
Florida Blue	05-82000-28	Critically ill infants and children in neonatal or pediatric intensive care with a suspected genetic disorder of unknown etiology
Horizon Blue New Jersey	094	Critically ill infants and children in neonatal or pediatric intensive care with a suspected genetic disorder of unknown etiology

Louisiana Senate Bill 154 (SB 154) also requires that all private health plans cover rWGS subject to medical necessity criteria.

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5. Bupp CP, Ames EG, Arenchild MK, Caylor S, Dimmock DP, Fakhoury JD, Karna P, Lehman A, Meghea CI, Misra V, Nolan DA, O'Shea J, Sharangpani A, Franck LS, Scheurer-Monaghan A. Breaking Barriers to Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing in Pediatrics: Michigan's Project Baby Deer. *Children.* 2023; 10(1):106. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children10010106>
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