

SAMPLE PATIENT APPEAL LETTER
FOR PROMETHEUS[®] Thiopurine Metabolites

(Please edit appropriately based upon your own information and medical history)

Note to Patient: If coverage was denied by your Medical Group rather than your Insurance Carrier, this letter should be addressed to the Medical Director at the Medical Group with a copy to your Insurance Carrier.

<DATE>

Red Cross Red Shield
P.O. Box 12345
Los Angeles, CA 90060

Dear Medical Appeals Reviewer:

I am writing to appeal your decision about medical coverage for the PROMETHEUS[®] Thiopurine Metabolites diagnostic test that my gastroenterologist, Dr. Ulysses Grant at Sunnyvale Hospital in San Diego, CA ordered. Dr. Grant and I felt that this test was a medically necessary step in the treatment of my inflammatory bowel disease.

PATIENT INFORMATION

I am 20 years old, and because of my inflammatory bowel disease, my doctor ordered PROMETHEUS Thiopurine Metabolites serology testing to measure the level of thiopurine metabolites in my body to help ensure I am receiving the appropriate amount of medication.

(List information relevant to your symptoms and treatment)

Name: Jane Doe
Date of Birth: November 12, 1985
Insurance ID: XXX123456789
Policy Holder: Mr. John Doe
Claim #: 111111
Date of service: July 4, 2005
Original Claim: \$270.00
Date of EOB: December 31, 2005
Explanation of Benefits (EOB):

1. Laboratory testing considered experimental
2. Out-of-network deductibles/rate applied
3. Laboratory services available through a capitated laboratory
4. Laboratory testing not considered medically necessary

(List information provided on the insurance EOB)

I would like to address these coverage issues hoping that you will reconsider your decision given the new information listed below.

TEST DESCRIPTION

PROMETHEUS Thiopurine Metabolites testing assists physicians in optimizing ongoing dosing of thiopurine immunosuppressant therapy to reach and maintain therapeutic goal. Thiopurine metabolite testing also helps to identify drug metabolite levels that may lead to toxicity and some of the reasons for treatment failure.

PROMETHEUS Thiopurine Metabolites is performed only at Prometheus Laboratories Inc., a clinical reference laboratory in San Diego, California. Prometheus is CLIA certified and CAP accredited. All laboratory tests have been validated in accordance with the guidelines established by these and other applicable agencies. Extensive studies have been performed. Currently, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval is not required for testing performed by Prometheus.

NETWORK PROVIDER SERVICES

Doctor Grant and I chose Prometheus to perform PROMETHEUS[®] Thiopurine Metabolites instead of alternative in-network laboratory testing because this test is proprietary to Prometheus and because of the information provided on their comprehensive report.

>AND/OR<

My in-network physician ordered the testing and directed me to an in-network laboratory which does not offer PROMETHEUS Thiopurine Metabolites testing. I have made a good-faith attempt to follow insurance guidelines and was unaware of the referral to an out-of-network provider.

LABORATORY AND PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

For additional information about the PROMETHEUS Thiopurine Metabolites test contact Prometheus Laboratories Inc. at 1-888-423-5227. If you require additional medical information, please contact Dr. Grant at XXX-XXX-XXXX.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- Dubinsky M, et al. Pharmacogenomics and metabolite measurement for 6-mercaptopurine therapy in inflammatory bowel disease. *Gastroenterology* 2000;118:705-713
- Cuffari C, et al. Utilization of erythrocyte 6-thioguanine metabolite levels to optimize azathioprine therapy in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. *Gut*. 2001;48: 642-46
- Seidman E, Clinical use and practical application of TPMT enzyme and 6-mercaptopurine metabolite monitoring in IBD. *Gastroenterol Disord*. 2003;3 Suppl 1:S30-8
- Dubinsky M, et al. A Cost-Effective Analysis of Alternative Disease Management Strategies in Patients with Crohn's Disease Treated with Azathioprine or 6-Mercaptopurine. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2005;100(10):2239-2247

Please approve full coverage for PROMETHEUS Thiopurine Metabolites or at least apply in-network benefit coverage for this test.

Thank you for your prompt attention. I look forward to receiving a written response from you within two weeks.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe
1234 Main Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90210
XXX-XXX-XXXX

cc: Dr. Ulysses Grant

cc: [YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE OR EQUIVALENT]