

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



December 3, 2018

### **New Medical Policy for Upper and Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Services Including Colonoscopies**

Beginning March 4, 2019, upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy services (listed below), including colonoscopies, will be subject to a new Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) medical policy (XI-03-001). The policy states that these services must be redirected and performed in an in-network Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) when medical or geographic criteria for use of a hospital outpatient facility are not met, in order to ensure coverage. Many specialists in the Blue Cross network have already started redirecting patients to the ASC setting when clinically appropriate. Groups performing these procedures outside the hospital have shown evidence of safe, high quality outcomes at a lower cost, while maintaining an excellent patient experience.

Beginning March 4, 2019, upper and lower endoscopy procedures administered in a hospital outpatient setting that do not meet medical policy criteria will not be eligible for reimbursement. Post-service audits will be conducted for services taking place at an outpatient hospital setting using the following information to ensure policy criteria are met:

- Documentation of medical necessity to receive the procedure at an outpatient hospital setting rather than an ASC.

Geographic exclusions for post-service audits include:

- Services for patients living greater than 25 miles from an in-network ASC performing these procedures are excluded from this program.
- Hospital outpatient facilities that do not have an in-network ASC performing these procedures within 25 miles of the outpatient hospital setting are excluded from this program.

Please check the subscriber's benefits and confirm the **in-network** site of care.

#### **List of Impacted Procedures and Associated CPT Codes:**

- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; diagnostic, including collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing, when performed (separate procedure) (43235)
- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with biopsy, single or multiple (43239)
- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with transendoscopic balloon dilation of esophagus (less than 30 mm diameter) (43249)
- Colonoscopy, flexible; diagnostic, including collection of specime(s) by brushing or washing, when performed (separate procedure) (45378)
- Colonoscopy, flexible; with biopsy, single or multiple (45380)
- Colonoscopy, flexible; with removal of tumor(s), polyp(s), or other lesion(s) by hot biopsy forceps (45384)
- Colonoscopy, flexible; with removal of tumor(s), polyp(s), or other lesion(s) by snare technique (45385)

**Products Impacted**

This program only applies to fully insured and self-insured commercial lines of business. As a reminder for an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) subscriber, please have the subscriber call Blue Cross at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**

**Predetermination Process for Providers:**

If certain unforeseen clinical circumstances **not** outlined in the medical policy arise that dictate the member should receive care in an outpatient hospital setting, providers may submit a predetermination form to verify if a service listed above will be deemed appropriate prior to treatment. Predeterminations are **not** required and do not guarantee payment.

**Reminder Regarding Medical Policy Updates & Changes:**

Medical policy changes are communicated in the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section of the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy website. The Upcoming Policies section lists new, revised, or inactivated policies approved by the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Committee and are effective at minimum 45 days from the date they were posted. To access the website:

- Go to [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://providers.bluecrossmn.com)
- Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy”, and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
- Select the “+” (plus) sign next to “Medical and Behavioral Health Policies” to see the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section

**Questions?**

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.