

PROVIDERALERT



To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: May 12, 2021

Subject: Monitored Anesthetic Care (MAC) for Colonoscopies and Endoscopies

Summary: Details are provided regarding Monitored Anesthetic Care for Colonoscopies and Endoscopies when considered medically necessary.

Monitored anesthesia (deep sedation or general anesthesia) is clinically proven, and therefore medically necessary, for upper or lower gastrointestinal endoscopy when any of the following criteria are met (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Standards of Practice Committee, 2018):

- The member is younger than 18 years of age; or
- The member is older than 70 years of age; or
- The member is pregnant; or
- The member is at increased risk for complications due to severe comorbidity (e.g., American Society of Anesthesiologists Physical Classification System class ASA IV); or
- Increased risk exists for airway obstruction due to anatomic variation, such as:
 - History of stridor
 - Dysmorphic facial features
 - Oral abnormalities (e.g., macroglossia)
 - Neck abnormalities (e.g., neck mass)
 - Jaw abnormalities (e.g., micrognathia)
- The member has one of the following:
 - History of adverse reaction to sedation;
 - History of inadequate response to sedation;
 - Obstructive sleep apnea;
 - Morbid obesity (body mass index >40);
 - Active or history of alcohol or substance abuse

These conditions will bypass authorization requirements regardless of diagnosis code positions on claims.

For further information, please review the AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana [Policy CCP.8002 Anesthesia Services for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy](#).

Questions: Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

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Where can I find more information on COVID-19?

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has updated its website to streamline communications and important notifications about COVID-19. Please visit <http://amerihealthcaritasla.com/covid-19> for up-to-date information for both providers and members, including frequently asked questions, and important provider alerts from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Health.