



MASSACHUSETTS

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Medical Policy In Vivo Analysis of Colorectal Polyps

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Policy Number: 521
BCBSA Reference Number: 2.01.51

Related Policies

None

Policy

**Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO and Indemnity
Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members**

In vivo analysis of colorectal polyps is [INVESTIGATIONAL](#).

Prior Authorization Information

Pre-service approval is required for all inpatient services for all products. See below for situations where prior authorization may be required or may not be required for outpatient services.

Yes indicates that prior authorization is required.

No indicates that prior authorization is not required.

N/A indicates that this service is primarily performed in an inpatient setting.

	Outpatient
Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)	This is not a covered service.
Commercial PPO and Indemnity	This is not a covered service.
Medicare HMO BlueSM	This is not a covered service.
Medicare PPO BlueSM	This is not a covered service.

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-9 Codes

The following codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

CPT Codes

There is no specific CPT code for this service.

Description

Identification of premalignant lesions is considered one of the cornerstones of colorectal cancer prevention. While hyperplastic polyps are considered benign without malignant potential, adenomatous polyps are thought to represent one of the earliest stages in the progression to a malignancy. Techniques have been developed as adjuncts to colonoscopy that are intended to distinguish between normal and precancerous tissue.

The first system developed was based on the observation that benign and malignant tissues emit different patterns and wavelengths of fluorescence after exposure to a laser light. One such device consists of an optical fiber emitting a laser that is directed against three different regions of the same polyp. The subsequent fluorescent signal is collected, measured, and analyzed by a proprietary system software, and classifies a polyp as "suspicious" (i.e., adenomatous) or "not suspicious" (i.e., hyperplastic).

Narrow band imaging (NBI) is another technique that allows visualization of the mucosal surface and capillary vessels and thus may assist in the differentiation of abnormal from normal mucosa during colonoscopy.

Examples of devices for in vivo analysis of colorectal polyps include the Optical Biopsy System from SpectraScience and the EVIS EXERA 160A System from Olympus Medical Systems Corp. All devices for in vivo analysis of colorectal polyps are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

Summary

The pivotal question is whether any in vivo analysis of colorectal polyps is superior to established colorectal screening procedures. Randomized trial data, in which participants receive both in vivo and standard screening tests, and histologic confirmation of disease is matched to screening test results for each polyp are required to evaluate this technology. These studies have not been done. Since the impact of this technology on health outcomes is not known, it is considered investigational.

Policy History

Date	Action
11/2011-4/2012	Medical policy ICD 10 remediation: Formatting, editing and coding updates. No changes to policy statements.
7/2011	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Hematology and Oncology. No changes to policy statements.
2/2/2011	New policy effective 2/2/2011 describing ongoing non-coverage.

Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies

Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:

[Medical Policy Terms of Use](#)

[Managed Care Guidelines](#)

[Indemnity/PPO Guidelines](#)

[Clinical Exception Process](#)

[Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines](#)

References

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