

Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Adjudication Guideline

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Medical

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1. Abstract

1.1 For Members

Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopy allows your healthcare provider to view, help diagnose and treat diseases that affect your lower gastrointestinal (GI) tract.

The lower gastrointestinal tract includes some parts of the small intestine, the colon, the rectum, and the anus.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

This adjudication guideline rule aims to specify the coverage details for the lower gastrointestinal endoscopies for all health insurance plans administered by Daman.

2. Scope

This adjudication rule highlights the medical indications, billing, and payment requirements of lower gastrointestinal endoscopy for all health insurance plans administered by Daman subject to policy terms and conditions.

- **Lower GI endoscopies include:**

- **Anoscopy** examination of the anus, anal canal, and internal sphincter.
- **Proctosigmoidoscopy** the examination of the rectum and sigmoid colon.
- **Flexible Sigmoidoscopy** examination of the entire rectum, sigmoid colon and may include examination of a portion of the descending colon.
- **Colonoscopy** examination of the entire colon, from the rectum to the cecum, and may include the examination of the terminal ileum.

- **Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS)**

Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) combines endoscopy and ultrasound to obtain images and information about the digestive tract and the surrounding tissue and organs. Surgical endoscopy always includes diagnostic endoscopy. If a diagnostic and surgical endoscopy are done at the same time, only surgical endoscopy should be billed.

- **Medical indications**

Common indications of Lower GI endoscopies include:

- Chronic diarrhea of unexplained origin.
- Iron deficiency anemia.
- Polyps.
- Inflammatory bowel disease.
- Colitis.
- Gastrointestinal bleeding.
- Acute nontoxic mega-colon.
- Sigmoid volvulus.
- Lower Gastrointestinal neoplasms.
- Bowel obstruction.
- Mega colon.
- Fistulae.
- Sudden unexplained weight loss.
- Colorectal cancer screening.
- Foreign bodies in the lower GI tract.

All licensed healthcare providers providing colorectal cancer screening must comply with policies and standards mentioned in the regulatory colorectal cancer screening guidelines.

3. Adjudication Policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

- Lower GI endoscopies, if medically necessary are covered for all plans administered by Daman (subject to policy terms and conditions).
- Eligible performing physicians permitted to provide endoscopy services:

Eligible Performing Physicians
Gastroenterologist
Gastrointestinal surgery
General surgery
Paediatric surgery
Colorectal surgery

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

3.3 Non-Coverage

- If lower GI endoscopy is not medically justified for the indicated diagnosis.
- If lower GI endoscopy is contraindicated.
- Lower GI endoscopy will not be covered for visitors plan as per policy terms and conditions unless the diagnosis is a medical emergency.

3.4 Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply regulatory payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT.

4. Denial Codes

Code	Code Description
MNEC-003	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice
MNEC-004	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses/activities
MNEC-005	Service /supply may be appropriate, but too frequent
NCOV-002	Pre-existing conditions are not covered
NCOV-003	Service(s) is (are) not covered
AUTH-001	Prior approval is required and was not obtained
AUTH-005	Claim information is inconsistent with pre-certified/authorized services
CLAI-012	Submission not compliant with contractual agreement between provider & payer
ELIG-007	Services requested/performed by a non-network provider
CODE-010	Activity/diagnosis inconsistent with clinician speciality

5. Appendices

5.1 References

- <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/79937-overview#a2>
- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/etiology-and-evaluation-of-chronic-constipation-in?adults?sectionName=Endoscopy&topicRef=16133&anchor=H14&source=see_link
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- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/causes-and-diagnosis-of-iron-deficiency-and-iron-deficiency-anemia-in-adults?search=iron%20deficiency%20anemia&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=1
- <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/197483-workup#c6>
- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/endoscopic-diagnosis-of-inflammatory-bowel-disease?search=Toxic%20gastroenteritis%20and%20colitis&source=search_result&selectedTitle=3~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=3
- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/angiodysplasia-of-the-gastrointestinal-tract?search=angiodysplasia%20adult&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~86&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H18
- <https://www.haad.ae/HAAD/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=n7rHlrJbhl0%3D&tabid=820>
- <http://www.isahd.ae/content/docs/MOHAP%20Guidelines%20For%20Colorectal%20Cancer%20Screening.pdf>

5.2 Revision History

Date	Change(s)
01/07/2013	V 1.0 New template
15/07/2014	V 2.0 Disclaimer updated as per system requirements
12/07/2018	V 3.0 Content Update
02/01/2025	V 4.0 Template Update General content review

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