

Chromoendoscopy and Narrow Band Imaging

Scope

This policy applies to:

- | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicare | |

Policy

Original Effective Date: 08/15/2021

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will not separately reimburse for chromoendoscopy, chromoscopy, chromocolonoscopy or narrow band imaging as a part of services provided during a diagnostic or surveillance colonoscopy or endoscopy.

Billing/Coding Guidelines

All claims must be billed according to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidelines.

Policy Definitions

Chromoendoscopy, chromoscopy, chromocolonoscopy – involves the topical application of nonpermanent dyes to improve tissue localization, characterization, or diagnosis during endoscopy

Narrow-band imaging (NBI) – uses a special filter to illuminate tissue with light at specific wavelengths, which enhances underlying vasculature and produces the greatest contrast between the vessels and surrounding mucosa

Prerequisite(s)

Not applicable

References

[Clinical Review Criteria – Chromoendoscopy – Narrow Band Imaging for Colonoscopy](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: A member has a routine colonoscopy or endoscopy and during the procedure, and the provider uses dyes or stains to enhance the procedure. The provider bills an unlisted procedure code for dye/stain. Will the unlisted code(s) be reimbursable?

A1: No. Kaiser Permanente will not separately reimburse for chromoendoscopy.

Q2: A member has a colonoscopy or endoscopy for a specific medical condition, and the provider uses dyes or stains to enhance the procedure. The provider bills an unlisted procedure code for dye/stain. Will the unlisted code(s) be reimbursable?

A2: No. Kaiser Permanente will not separately reimburse for chromoendoscopy.

Revision History

05/24/2022 – Updated formatting

04/16/21 – New Payment Policy

Note: This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, we may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. Further, the policy does not cover all issues related to reimbursement for services rendered to our enrollees as legislative mandates, the provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents, and the Provider Manual all may supplement or in some cases supersede this policy. This policy may be modified from time to time by publishing a new version of the policy on Kaiser Permanente provider website; however, the information presented in this policy is believed to be accurate and current as of the date of publication.