

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast Providers

From: AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast

Date: June 15, 2020

Subject: Anesthesia Services for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Policy Notification

Summary: This serves as official notice of a new AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast Anesthesia Services for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy policy. This policy will be effective August 15, 2020. Please make all relevant parties in your organization aware of this upcoming change.

Coverage Policy:

Deep sedation/ general anesthesia is clinically proven and, therefore, medically necessary for upper or lower gastrointestinal endoscopy when any of the following criteria are met:

- The member is under 18 years of age.
- The member is over 70 years of age.
- The member is pregnant.
- Increased risk for complications due to severe comorbidity exists.
- 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 greater than 40).
 - Active or history of alcohol or substance abuse.

An anesthesia professional must be present while a patient is under deep sedation or general anesthesia before, during, and after a gastrointestinal endoscopy, whether or not an anesthesia provider administered the sedation or anesthesia.

Prior authorization to determine medical necessity will be required before the upper or lower gastrointestinal endoscopy service is performed under deep sedation/ general anesthesia.

**Limitations:**

Deep sedation/general anesthesia for gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures in average-risk members is investigational, not clinically proven, and therefore not medically necessary.

Questions:

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 1-800-521-6007 for AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and at 1-888-208-7370 for AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast.