Virtual Colonoscopy (CT colonography)

Last Review Date: January 19, 2017
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Medical Guideline Disclaimer

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Definition

Virtual colonoscopy (VC), also known as CT colonography, utilizes helical computed tomography of the abdomen and pelvis to visualize the colon lumen, along with 3-D reconstruction. The test requires colonic preparation similar to that required for standard colonoscopy (instrument colonoscopy), and air insufflation to achieve colonic distention.

Guideline

Members are eligible for screening/diagnostic VC coverage when either of the following indications is applicable:

1. Failed (incomplete) fiberoptic colonoscopy.
   Notes must be provided to the Plan upon request when either of the following scenarios is applicable:
   ▪ Immediate VC post fiberoptic failure.
   ▪ Future VC post fiberoptic failure.

2. Fiberoptic colonoscopy is contraindicated as a result of any of the following conditions/circumstances:
   ▪ Recent myocardial infarction.
   ▪ Bleeding disorder.
   ▪ Contraindication to sedation.
**Limitations/Exclusions**

Screening VC is not considered medically necessary (when using ICD-9-CM V-76.51 — special screening for malignant neoplasms, colon) in the absence of contraindications to the performance of standard fiberoptic colonoscopy

**Applicable Procedure Codes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74261</td>
<td>Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, diagnostic, including image postprocessing; without contrast material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74262</td>
<td>Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, diagnostic, including image postprocessing; with contrast material(s) including non-contrast images, if performed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74263</td>
<td>Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, screening, including image postprocessing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applicable ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z53.8</td>
<td>Procedure and treatment not carried out for other reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z53.9</td>
<td>Procedure and treatment not carried out, unspecified reason</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References**


Specialty-matched clinical peer review.