



Clinical Medical Policy Capsule Endoscopy

Benefit Coverage:

Covered benefit

Description:

Capsule endoscopy is a procedure used to examine the entire length of the small intestines through ingestion of a small pill containing a video capsule. The capsule takes color pictures as it passes through the digestive tract.

Coverage Determination:

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (NHPRI) covers Capsule Endoscopy when medical necessity criteria is met. Prior authorization is required.

Criteria:

Capsule endoscopy is considered a clinical option when requested by a contracted practitioner and the following criteria are met:

- Presence of ongoing obscure gastrointestinal bleeding with site not identified by previous testing including:
 - Upper endoscopy and colonoscopy;
 - Push enteroscopy; or
 - SBFT or CTenteroclysis

- Diagnosis of Anemia:
 - Iron deficiency anemia, or
 - Anemia requiring transfusions, or
 - Multifactorial anemia

- Initial diagnosis in person with suspected Crohn's disease, without evidence of disease on conventional diagnostic tests (EGD, colonoscopy, small-bowel follow-through).

Covered Procedures:

Exclusions:

Capsule endoscopy is contraindicated in persons with known or suspected gastrointestinal obstruction, strictures, or fistulae.

CMP Number: CMP-011.01

CMP Cross Reference:



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References:

- 1) MDCConsult: This Week in Medicine 3/26/04: bookmark url: /das/stat/view/3649433-2/mnfp?nid=132404&sid=258684940&date=week, "Video Pill homes in on GI bleeding causes
- 2) Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Volume 59, Number 4, April 2004: A Prospective Comparison of Capsule Endoscopy and Push Enteroscopy in Patients with GI Bleeding of Obscure Origin
- 3) Douglas G. Adler, MD, Mary Knipschild, BA, Christopher Gostout, MD
- 4) Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Volume 56, #3, September 2002, Editorial, David E. Fletcher, "Capsule Endoscopy: The voyage is fantastic--will it change what we do?"
- 5) An Pediatric. 2003 Dec, 59 (6): 586-9, Utility of Capsule Endoscopy in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Arguelles, et al
- 6) UptoDate: Wireless Capsule Endoscopy, David Cave, MD, PhD, 8/28/03
- 7) Maglinte, Dean et al. CT Enteroclysis Techniques and Applications. Radiology Clinics of North America. Vol. 45 (2007), pp. 289-301.
- 8) Johanssen, Sarah et al. The Yield of Wireless Capsule Endoscopy in the Detection of Neuroendocrine Tumors in Comparison with CT Enteroclysis. Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Vol. 63, No. 4, 2006, pp.660-665.

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