

<b>Title: CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY (CAMERA PILL)</b>	<b>Division: Medical Management</b> <b>Department: Utilization Management</b>
<b>Approval Date: 3/30/18</b>	<b>LOB: Medicaid, Medicare, HIV SNP, CHP, MetroPlus Gold, Goldcare I&amp;II, Market Plus, Essential, HARP</b>
<b>Effective Date: 3/30/18</b>	<b>Policy Number: UM-MP206</b>
<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 1 of 12</b>

**1. POLICY DESCRIPTION:** Capsule Endoscopy (Camera Pill)

**2. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES:**

Medical Management Administration, Utilization Management, Integrated Care Management, Pharmacy, Claim Department, Providers Contracting.

**3. DEFINITIONS:**

Telemetric gastrointestinal capsule imaging (also referred to as the camera pill or wireless capsule endoscopy) is a noninvasive diagnostic imaging system. The capsule allows doctors to view the entire GI tract, from the esophagus through the rectum. The capsule is especially useful for visualizing small bowel, which is not accessible to standard upper endoscopy and colonoscopy. A small capsule (approximately 11 × 26 mm) is swallowed and moves through the GI tract via peristalsis, capturing video pictures which are transmitted to sensors taped to the body and stored on a portable recorder. Video images are stored on a portable recorder and later downloaded to a computer, from which they may be viewed. When necessary, the images can be downloaded directly to the computer and viewed in real time. The capsule passes naturally from the body. At the end of the capsule’s journey, it is expelled with the stool during a bowel movement and then flushed away.

The yield of pill examination for microcytic anemia following negative upper and lower endoscopy is low. Visualization requires bowel prep. Both the prep and the pill have occasional complications. Pill endoscopy without confirmation of blood loss is controversial.

**4. POLICY:**

Patients are eligible for esophageal or small bowel capsule endoscopy coverage when performed by gastroenterologists or under the direct supervision of a gastroenterologist.

1. Esophageal varices for members with cirrhosis and portal hypertension and no prior variceal bleeding. Cirrhosis and portal hypertension are defined as a Child's class B or C stage or a class A with a low platelet count (<140,000), an enlarged portal vein diameter (> 13 mm) or evidence of collateral circulation on ultrasound. An initial camera pill evaluation is considered reasonable and will enable the presence and/or size of varices to be determined. Follow-up studies are permissible as follows:

- a. No varices — repeat at 3 years.
- b. Small varices— repeat every 1–2 years (diameter > 0 and < ¼ of the video circumference for the frame that shows its largest diameter).

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<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 2 of 12</b>

c. Medium to large varices— **repeat study not medically necessary**; endoscopy is the appropriate modality for subsequent evaluation ( $\geq \frac{1}{4}$  of the circumference).

2. Small Bowel indications

a. Occult GI bleeding — the medical record must document the presence of GI bleeding and contain reports of previous negative upper and lower endoscopies performed during the current episode of illness.

b. Presence of anemia - secondary to GI blood loss. Since bleeding may be intermittent, M+ will accept any positive fecal occult blood test in a series of tests as a positive test.

c. Presence of anemia of uncertain etiology: Female patients must have a gynecologic evaluation within the past year before pill endoscopy will be approved when the indication is microcytic anemia of uncertain etiology and previous unremarkable upper and lower GI endoscopy without confirmed GI bleeding.

d. Celiac sprue — when celiac disease is present, and member fails to improve post three-month trial of gluten-free diet and has abnormal weight loss and diarrhea.

e. Crohn’s disease — diagnosis known — but it is necessary to determine whether there is small bowel involvement.

f. Crohn's disease — diagnosis suspected — when there is a strong clinical suspicion of the disease (prior radiological study to exclude stricture must have been performed, which did not demonstrate the presence of Crohn’s disease).

All of the following must be present:

- i. Abdominal pain.
- ii. Occult or overt GI bleeding.
- iii. Diarrhea.
- iv. Weight loss.

*[Note: For this indication (e), coverage may be provided without the member having undergone a prior upper GI endoscopy and colonoscopy. The medical record must document that a diagnosis of the disease requires confirmation; if the diagnosis is known, the documentation must reflect that it is necessary to determine small bowel involvement. For those members in whom there was a high clinical suspicion of Crohn's disease and who had a capsule endoscopy performed without prior upper endoscopy or colonoscopy, the medical record should document a prior radiologic procedure that excluded strictures.*

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<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 3 of 12</b>

g. Colitis — for those cases in which a diagnosis of colitis of an indeterminate type affecting the colon is known that is greater than 2 weeks and in whom a more specific diagnosis is sought by evaluating for possible small bowel involvement. The medical record must document that the test is necessary in order to evaluate small bowel involvement.

g. Angio ectasias of the GI tract — for the diagnosis of Angio ectasias, as evidenced by recurrent episodes of obscure GI bleeding.

h. Small bowel neoplasm — for the diagnosis of small bowel neoplasm when the diagnosis has not been previously confirmed by other studies (e.g., upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, colonoscopy, push enteroscopy, nuclear imaging or radiological procedures).

The member must have neoplasm symptoms; all the following must be present:

- I. Abdominal pain.
- II. Occult or overt GI bleeding.
- III. Diarrhea.
- IV. Weight loss.

OR

V. Have documented polyposis syndrome associated with small bowel neoplasia.

OR

V1. Have other history suggesting the presence of small bowel neoplasia (i.e., intermittent obstruction or intussusception) and have undergone prior diagnostic testing (i.e., upper GI endoscopy and/or colonoscopy and radiological studies) to assess these symptoms.

***Note:** The requirement for prior examination by upper and lower endoscopies may be waived for members with documented intussusception of the small bowel without established etiology.*

i. Inflammatory bowel disease. All of the following must be present:

- i. Abdominal pain.
- ii. Occult or overt GI bleeding.
- iii. Diarrhea.
- iv. Weight loss.

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<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 4 of 12</b>

j. Other conditions — evaluation of malabsorption syndrome or protein-losing enteropathy of an obscure origin, as evidenced by the following:

- i. Diarrhea with greasy voluminous foul-smelling stool, and
- ii. Weight loss despite adequate food intake.

OR

- iii. Anorexia, and
- iv. Flatulence, and
- v. Abdominal distention.

Appropriate prior negative or non-diagnostic evaluations of the esophagus, stomach, duodenum/small intestine, and colon by flexible endoscopy, and complementary radiologic procedures and/or microbiologic studies must be documented.

k. Evaluation prior to surgery — pill endoscopy may be needed for evaluation of extent of small bowel involvement with arteriovenous malformations or lymphangiectasia for members who are being evaluated for surgical resection of the small bowel.

#### 5. LIMITATIONS/EXCLUSIONS:

1. GI obstruction (The gastrointestinal tract must be patent, to prevent the pill becoming trapped)
2. CPT 91112-Evaluation for motility or patency (e.g., AGILE® as an accessory to the PillCam™). This is not considered medically necessary, as there is insufficient evidence to support its use.
3. CPT 91113 (pill endoscopy of the colon) will require prior approval. CPT91113 will not normally be reimbursed separately for a year following reimbursement for CPT 91110 (pill endoscopy of the entire GI tract) or 91111 (pill endoscopy of the esophagus).
4. CPT 91111 (pill endoscopy of the esophagus) will require prior approval. CPT91111 will not normally be reimbursed separately for a year following reimbursement for CPT 91110 (pill endoscopy of the entire GI tract) or 91113 (pill endoscopy of the colon)
5. CPT 91110(pill endoscopy of the entire GI tract) will require prior approval. CPT91110 will not normally be reimbursed separately for a year following a previous approval of CPT91110 or CPT91113 (pill endoscopy of the colon) or CPT 91111 (pill endoscopy of the esophagus)

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<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 5 of 12</b>

**THE CAMERA PILL IS NOT CONSIDERED MEDICALLY NECESSARY FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- A) Bright red blood per rectum
- B) Colorectal cancer screening.
- C) Hematemesis.
- D) Detection of small bowel malignancies in the absence of obscure GI bleeding or symptoms suggesting Crohn’s disease.
- E) For the evaluation of gastroesophageal reflux.
- F) For the follow-up evaluation of medium to large esophageal varices.
- G) Confirmation of lesions or pathologies that are:
  - a. Normally within the reach of upper or lower endoscopes (lesions proximal to the second portion of the duodenum or distal to the ileum) OR
  - b. Previously discovered pathology (including push enteroscopy, colonoscopy, radiology).

**6. APPLICABLE PROCEDURE CODES:**

CPT	Description
91110	Gastrointestinal tract imaging, intraluminal (e.g., capsule endoscopy), esophagus through ileum, with interpretation and report.
91111	Gastrointestinal tract imaging, intraluminal (e.g., capsule endoscopy), esophagus with interpretation and report.
91112	Gastrointestinal transit and pressure measurement, stomach through colon, wireless capsule, with interpretation and report.
91113	Gastrointestinal tract imaging, intraluminal (e.g., capsule endoscopy), colon, with interpretation and report.
0355T	Gastrointestinal tract imaging, intraluminal (eg, capsule endoscopy), colon, with interpretation and report.

**7. APPLICABLE DIAGNOSIS CODES:**

ICD 10 CODE	Description
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<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 6 of 12</b>

C17.2	Malignant neoplasm of ileum
C18.0	Malignant neoplasm of cecum
C18.1	Malignant neoplasm of appendix
C18.2	Malignant neoplasm of ascending colon
C18.3	Malignant neoplasm of hepatic flexure
C18.4	Malignant neoplasm of transverse colon
C18.5	Malignant neoplasm of splenic flexure
C18.6	Malignant neoplasm of descending colon
C18.7	Malignant neoplasm of sigmoid colon
C18.8	Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of colon
C18.9	Malignant neoplasm of colon, unspecified
I85.00	Esophageal varices without bleeding
I85.01	Esophageal varices with bleeding
C78.5	Secondary malignant neoplasm of large intestine and rectum
C78.80	Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified digestive organ
C78.89	Secondary malignant neoplasm of other digestive organs
D13.0	Benign neoplasm of esophagus
D13.1	Benign neoplasm of stomach
D37.1	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of stomach
D37.2	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of small intestine
D37.3	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of appendix
D37.4	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of colon
D37.5	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of rectum
D50.0	Iron deficiency anemia secondary to blood loss (chronic)
D50.1	Sideropenic dysphagia
D50.8	Other iron deficiency anemias
D50.9	Iron deficiency anemia, unspecified
D64.0	Hereditary sideroblastic anemia
E34.0	Carcinoid syndrome
K31.819	Other diseases of stomach and duodenum

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<b>Effective Date: 3/30/18</b>	<b>Policy Number: UM-MP206</b>
<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 7 of 12</b>

K50.111	Crohn's disease of large intestine with rectal bleeding
K50.112	Crohn's disease of large intestine with intestinal obstruction
K50.113	Crohn's disease of large intestine with fistula
K50.114	Crohn's disease of large intestine with abscess
K52.89	Other specified noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis
K52.9	Noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis, unspecified
K57.41	Diverticulitis of both small and large intestine with perforation and abscess with bleeding
K70.2	Alcoholic fibrosis and sclerosis of liver
K63.3	Ulcer of intestine
K63.5	polyp of colon
K70.030	Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver without ascites
K70.31	Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver with ascites
K74.0	Hepatic fibrosis
K74.1	Hepatic sclerosis
K74.2	Hepatic fibrosis with hepatic sclerosis
K74.3	Primary biliary cirrhosis
K74.4	secondary biliary cirrhosis
K74.5	Biliary cirrhosis, unspecified
K74.60	Unspecified cirrhosis of liver
K74.69	Other cirrhosis of liver
K90.1	Tropical sprue
K90.9	Intestinal malabsorption, unspecified
D37.2	
D13.9	Benign neoplasm of ill-defined sites within the digestive system
I85.00	Esophageal varices without bleeding
I85.01	Esophageal varices with bleeding
I86.4	Gastric Varices

**8. REFERENCES:**

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<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 8 of 12</b>

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<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 9 of 12</b>

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<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 10 of 12</b>

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**9. REVISION LOG:**

REVISIONS	DATE
Creation date	7/20/2017
Annual Review	3/15/2019
Annual Review	4/30/2021
Annual Review	5/31/2022
Annual Review	5/30/2023
Review and updates	7/22/2024

Approved:

Date:

Approved:

Date:

David Ackman, MD  
VP of Medical Director

Sanjiv Shah, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

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<b>Effective Date: 3/30/18</b>	<b>Policy Number: UM-MP206</b>
<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 11 of 12</b>

Medical Guideline Disclaimer:

Property of Metro Plus Health Plan. All rights reserved. The treating physician or primary care provider must submit MetroPlus Health Plan clinical evidence that the patient meets the criteria for the treatment or surgical procedure. Without this documentation and information, Metroplus Health Plan will not be able to properly review the request for prior authorization. The clinical review criteria expressed in this policy reflects how MetroPlus Health Plan determines whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary. MetroPlus Health Plan established the clinical review criteria based upon a review of currently available clinical information(including clinical outcome studies in the peer-reviewed published medical literature, regulatory status of the technology, evidence-based guidelines of public health and health research agencies, evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations, views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and other relevant factors). MetroPlus Health Plan expressly reserves the right to revise these conclusions as clinical information changes and welcomes further relevant information. Each benefit program defines which services are covered. The conclusion that a particular service or

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<b>Effective Date: 3/30/18</b>	<b>Policy Number: UM-MP206</b>
<b>Review Date: 7/22/2024</b>	<b>Cross Reference Number:</b>
<b>Retired Date:</b>	<b>Page 12 of 12</b>

supply is medically necessary does not constitute a representation or warranty that this service or supply is covered and or paid for by MetroPlus Health Plan, as some programs exclude coverage for services or supplies that MetroPlus Health Plan considers medically necessary. If there is a discrepancy between this guidelines and a member's benefits program, the benefits program will govern. In addition, coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of a state, the Federal Government or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for Medicare and Medicaid members. All coding and website links are accurate at time of publication. MetroPlus Health Plan has adopted the herein policy in providing management, administrative and other services to our members, related to health benefit plans offered by our organization.