Subject:          Wireless Capsule Endoscopy*

Updated:        April 27, 2010

Department(s):  Utilization Management

Policy:          Wireless capsule endoscopy (CPT 91110) for indications other than esophageal disease is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc., for indications specified below.

Objective:      To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to provide objective criteria for a medically necessary service.

Procedure:      1. The following must be submitted along with the request for capsule endoscopy:

   A. Evidence of gastrointestinal (GI) blood loss, including at least one of the following:
      
      i. Unexplained iron deficiency anemia
      ii. Positive fecal occult blood on at least one occasion
      iii. Hematochezia (visible blood in the stool)

   OR

   B. A history of abdominal pain, weight loss, or diarrhea, etiology of which remains unexplained by fiberoptic endoscopic examinations (see below)
2. All requests for wireless capsule endoscopy must be accompanied by reports of upper GI endoscopy and colonoscopy that have failed to reveal a gastrointestinal source of the symptoms, signs or blood loss.

3. Capsule endoscopy is not reimbursable for the following:

   a. As the initial test in evaluating GI blood loss
   b. As a screening test in any circumstance
   c. To confirm pathology identified by other means
   d. To evaluate esophageal (CPT 91111) or colonic disease

4. All requests for wireless capsule endoscopy are subject to medical review.

References


*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.*