



**AmeriHealth Caritas**<sup>™</sup>  
District of Columbia

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers  
**Date:** September 26, 2022  
**Subject:** Monitored Anesthesia Care for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

The purpose of this notice is to outline indications for which the administration of monitored anesthesia for gastrointestinal endoscopy (colonoscopy or EGD) services performed in an outpatient setting is considered medically necessary for enrollees with a higher risk for sedation-related complications. This replaces clinical policy CCP.8002.

Monitored anesthesia (deep sedation or general anesthesia) for gastrointestinal endoscopy (colonoscopy or EGD) procedures, in average-risk patients, is considered investigational and not medically necessary. It is the policy of AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia that monitored anesthesia care, for deep sedation or general anesthesia administered for upper or lower gastrointestinal endoscopy (colonoscopy or EGD) in an outpatient setting, is considered medically appropriate and necessary when any of the following criteria/conditions are met:

- The enrollee is younger than 18 years of age; or
- The enrollee is 70 years of age or older; or
- The enrollee is pregnant; or
- The enrollee is at increased risk for complications due to severe comorbidity (e.g., American Society of Anesthesiologists Physical Classification System class ASA IV); or
- 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 enrollee 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 >40).
  - Active or history of alcohol or substance abuse.

*This policy does not constitute medical advice, or medical care, and does not direct treatment. Physicians and other health care providers are solely responsible for the treatment decisions for their patients and for providing the most appropriate care.*

**Questions:**

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 202-408-2237.