Colonic Irrigation (NCD 100.7)

**Policy Number**: 100.7  
**Approved By**: UnitedHealthcare Medicare Reimbursement Policy Committee  
**Current Approval Date**: 03/12/2014

**IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

This policy is applicable to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans offered by UnitedHealthcare and its affiliates.

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare reimbursement policies use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®*), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms (CMS 1450). Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy. This information is intended to serve only as a general resource regarding UnitedHealthcare's reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare enrollees. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to: legislative mandates, the physician or other provider contracts, and/or the enrollee’s benefit coverage documents. Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by UnitedHealthcare due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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Overview
Colonic irrigation is a procedure to wash out or lavage material on the walls of the bowel to an unlimited distance without inducing defecation. This procedure is distinguished from all types of enemas which are primarily used to induce defecation.

Reimbursement Guidelines
There are no conditions for which colonic irrigation is medically indicated and no evidence of therapeutic value. Accordingly, colonic irrigation cannot be considered reasonable and necessary within the meaning of section 1862(a) (1) of the Act.

References Included (but not limited to):
CMS NCD
NCD 100.7 Colonic Irrigation

UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Coverage Summaries
Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Gastroesophageal and Gastrointestinal (GI) Services and Procedures

History

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