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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.

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High Resolution Anoscopy

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Summary

Overview
High-Resolution Anoscopy (HRA) is analogous to cervical colposcopy. During HRA, a lubricated anoscope is inserted into the anal canal. A cotton swab wrapped in gauze and soaked in 3 % acetic acid is then inserted through the anoscope, and the anoscope is removed, leaving the gauze in place. The acetic acid gives dysplastic epithelium a white appearance. After 2 minutes, the gauze is removed and the anoscope reinserted. A high-resolution colposcope (magnification of 10x to 40x) is used to view the walls of the anus. A biopsy of suspicious tissue can be taken.

Anal squamous dysplasia describes a spectrum of diseases that ranges from low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions to (LSIL) to higher grade squamous lesions or to invasive anal squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Recent reports have shown a significant increase in squamous lesions in immunocompromised individuals and men who have sex with men (MSM). These lesions are associated with chronic infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV).

Reimbursement Guidelines
HRA with collection of specimens (CPT category III code 0226T) and HRA with biopsy (CPT category III code 0227T) coverage is based upon the existing Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for the jurisdiction in which the procedure is performed.

Current evidence does NOT support coverage for routine screening in any population at this time. Tests for screening purposes that are performed in the absence of signs, symptoms, complaints, or personal history of disease or injury are not covered except as explicitly authorized by statute.

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<thead>
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References Included (but not limited to):

- CMS LCD(s)
  Numerous LCDs
- CMS Article(s)
  Numerous Articles

History

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