

Diagnostic Esophagogastroduodenoscopy or Esophagoscopy (59 years of age or younger)



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Medical Coverage Policy

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Related Medical/Pharmacy Coverage Policies

[Capsule Endoscopy](#)
[Bariatric Surgery](#)

Description

This medical coverage policy is intended for diagnostic esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) or esophagoscopy only. Criteria for screening, surveillance or therapeutic EGD or esophagoscopy are not addressed in this policy.

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD), also known as upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy, is used for real-time visualization of the throat, esophagus, stomach and proximal duodenum for assessment and interpretation of the findings encountered. During the procedure, a thin, flexible fiberoptic tube with a high-definition white light and camera is passed through the mouth and upper GI tract displaying images on a video monitor. Additionally, the EGD may be used to dilate (stretch) a narrow area, obtain a biopsy (small tissue sample), perform a cytology test (the collection of cells for testing), remove polyps or treat bleeding.

An **esophagoscopy** is the examination of the esophagus or the first portion of the EGD, which visualizes the esophageal mucosa from the upper esophageal sphincter to the esophagogastric junction where the esophageal mucosa ends, and the stomach mucosa begins.

The esophagoscopy procedure is one of several procedures that fall under the category of upper endoscopy, including gastroscopy, EGD, and enteroscopy. Esophagoscopy alone is uncommon; it is generally performed as part of a more complete upper endoscopic procedure in which the esophagus, stomach, and portions of the small intestine are explored endoscopically. Esophagoscopy can be performed via the transnasal or transoral route.

Transnasal EGD uses a flexible ultrathin tube. This approach reportedly does not require sedation and has been suggested for use in an individual who may have anxiety of sedation or at high risk of cardiopulmonary complications.

Transoral esophageal mucosal integrity testing by electrical impedance (eg, MiVu) is being studied to aid in the diagnosis of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). This testing is performed during routine endoscopy and reportedly gives real time measurements of esophageal epithelial impedance values. **(Refer to Coverage Limitations section)**

Coverage Determination

Humana members may be eligible under the Plan for **diagnostic EGD or esophagoscopy (59 years of age or younger)** for the following indications:

- Evaluation of dyspepsia¹⁴ or GERD²⁰ with **ANY** of the following:
 - Family history of upper GI cancer in [first-degree relative](#); **OR**
 - Lymphadenopathy (eg, left supraclavicular or periumbilical); **OR**
 - Palpable abdominal mass (eg, hepatoma); **OR**
 - Progressive dysphagia; **OR**
 - Unexplained iron deficiency anemia; **OR**
- Evaluation of persistent dyspepsia symptoms (eg, epigastric pain, fullness, heartburn, nausea, vomiting) after a 2-4 week trial of standard dose, once daily proton pump inhibitor (PPI) therapy^{7,11,14}; **AND**
 - Individual has undergone noninvasive testing for *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) and was negative; **OR**
 - Individual has undergone noninvasive testing for *H. pylori* and was positive but has achieved successful eradication; **OR**
- Evaluation of GERD reflux symptoms (eg, acid reflux, heartburn) that are persistent or recurrent despite a 2 month trial of standard dose, once daily PPI therapy⁴; **OR**
- Assess acute injury after caustic ingestion^{7,11}; **OR**

- Atypical chest pain after cardiac disease has been ruled out⁴; **OR**
- Clinically significant unintentional weight loss (eg, anorexia) (greater than 5 percent usual body weight over 6 to 12 months)^{7,11,20}; **OR**
- Confirmation and specific histologic diagnosis of radiologically demonstrated findings including, but not limited to:
 - Gastric or esophageal lesion; **OR**
 - Suspected neoplastic lesion; **OR**
 - Upper tract obstruction or stricture^{7,11}; **OR**
- Evaluation of esophageal masses and for directing biopsies to rule out esophageal cancer^{16,30,45}; **OR**
- Evaluation of familial adenomatous polyposis syndromes^{7,11}; **OR**
- Evaluation of an individual with findings on an esophagram suggestive of achalasia³⁴; **OR**
- Evaluation of an individual with signs or symptoms of locoregional recurrence after resection of esophageal cancer; **OR**
- Evaluation of an individual with suspected portal hypertension to document esophageal varices^{7,11}; **OR**
- Evaluation of lower abdominal symptoms such as diarrhea in an individual suspected of having small bowel disease to identify an upper GI etiology (eg, celiac disease)⁵⁵; **OR**
- Evaluation of other diseases in which the presence of upper GI pathology might modify other planned management (eg, an individual with a history of ulcer or GI bleeding who is scheduled for organ transplantation, long-term anticoagulation or chronic nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug [NSAID] therapy for arthritis and in an individual with cancer of the head or neck)^{7,11}; **OR**
- GI bleeding and at least 1 of the following:
 - Acute or recent bleeding; **OR**
 - Presumed chronic blood loss or iron deficiency anemia and **ALL** of the following:
 - Colonoscopy is negative; **AND**
 - The clinical situation suggests an upper GI source^{7,11}; **OR**
- Odynophagia (painful swallowing)^{7,11}; **OR**
- Persistent or recurrent dysphagia and **1 or more** of the following:
 - Eosinophilic esophagitis, suspected and need for biopsy

- Foreign body, known or suspected
- GI bleeding
- Transient obstruction with repeated episodes³⁰; **OR**
- Persistent vomiting of unknown cause^{7,11}

Coverage Limitations

Humana members may **NOT** be eligible under the Plan for **diagnostic EGD or esophagoscopy (59 years of age or younger)** for any indications other than those listed above including, but may not be limited to:

- Individual with an asymptomatic upper GI tract (eg, prior to bariatric surgery)

All other indications are considered not medically necessary as defined in the member's individual certificate. Please refer to the member's individual certificate for the specific definition.

Humana members may **NOT** be eligible under the Plan for **transoral esophageal mucosal integrity testing by electrical impedance** (eg, MiVu) for any indication. This is considered experimental/investigational as it is not identified as widely used and generally accepted for the proposed use as reported in nationally recognized peer-reviewed medical literature published in the English language.

Coding Information

CPT® Code(s)	Description	Comments
43191	Esophagoscopy, rigid, transoral; diagnostic, including collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing when performed (separate procedure)	
43193	Esophagoscopy, rigid, transoral; with biopsy, single or multiple	
43197	Esophagoscopy, flexible, transnasal; diagnostic, including collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing, when performed (separate procedure)	
43198	Esophagoscopy, flexible, transnasal; with biopsy, single or multiple	
43200	Esophagoscopy, flexible, transoral; diagnostic, including collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing, when performed (separate procedure)	
43202	Esophagoscopy, flexible, transoral; with biopsy, single or multiple	
43235	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; diagnostic, including collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing, when performed (separate procedure)	

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43237	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with endoscopic ultrasound examination limited to the esophagus, stomach or duodenum, and adjacent structures	
43238	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with transendoscopic ultrasound-guided intramural or transmural fine needle aspiration/biopsy(s), (includes endoscopic ultrasound examination limited to the esophagus, stomach or duodenum, and adjacent structures)	
43239	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with biopsy, single or multiple	
43242	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with transendoscopic ultrasound-guided intramural or transmural fine needle aspiration/biopsy(s) (includes endoscopic ultrasound examination of the esophagus, stomach, and either the duodenum or a surgically altered stomach where the jejunum is examined distal to the anastomosis)	
43259	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with endoscopic ultrasound examination, including the esophagus, stomach, and either the duodenum or a surgically altered stomach where the jejunum is examined distal to the anastomosis	
CPT® Category III Code(s)	Description	Comments
0652T	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transnasal; diagnostic, including collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing, when performed (separate procedure)	
0653T	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transnasal; with biopsy, single or multiple	
0654T	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transnasal; with insertion of intraluminal tube or catheter	
HCPCS Code(s)	Description	Comments
C1748	Endoscope, single-use (i.e. disposable), upper GI, imaging/illumination device (insertable)	Not Covered
C9777	Esophageal mucosal integrity testing by electrical impedance, transoral (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	Not Covered

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Appendix**Appendix A****Family Relationships**

Degree of Relationship	Relative of the Individual to be Tested
First-degree	Child, full-sibling, parent
Second-degree	Aunt, uncle, grandchild, grandparent, nephew, niece, half-sibling
Third-degree	First cousin, great aunt, great-uncle, great-grandchild, great-grandparent, half-aunt, half-uncle

Change Summary

- 06/06/2024 Annual Review, Coverage Change.