

## High Resolution Anoscopy

Policy Number: **M20130923078**  
Effective Date: **11/1/2013**  
Sponsoring Department: **Health Care Services**  
Impacted Department(s): **Health Care Services**

**Type of Policy:**  Internal  External

**Data Classification:**  Confidential  Restricted  Public

### Applies to (Line of Business):

- Corporate (All)
- State Products, if yes which plan(s):  MediSource;  MediSource Connect;  Child Health Plus;  Essential Plan
- Medicare, if yes, which plan(s):  MAPD;  PDP;  ISNP;  CSNP
- Commercial, if yes, which type:  Large Group;  Small Group;  Individual
- Self-Funded Services (*Refer to specific Summary Plan Descriptions (SPDs) to determine any pre-authorization or pre-certification requirements and coverage limitations. In the event of any conflict between this policy and the SPD of a Self-Funded Plan, the SPD shall supersede the policy.*)

### Excluded Products within the Selected Lines of Business (LOB)

---

N/A

**Applicable to Vendors?** Yes  No

---

### Purpose and Applicability:

---

To set forth the clinical guidelines for coverage of high resolution anoscopy (HRA).

## Policy:

---

### **Commercial, Self-Funded and Medicare Advantage:**

Based on a review of the published literature, the use of high resolution anoscopy has been medically proven to be effective and is medically reasonable to assist in the diagnosis of suspicious anal lesions among HIV-infected members in the following circumstances:

- Abnormal anal findings on physical exam (e.g., anogenital warts, hypo- or hyper-pigmented perianal lesions); or
- Prior history of anal dysplasia or anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN); or
- An abnormal anal papanicolaou (Pap) smear.

Use of HRA as a screening tool for all other asymptomatic members, even if they are potentially considered at increased risk (e.g., men who have sex with men, women with cervical cancer) is not covered.

### **MediSource, MediSource Connect, Child Health Plus and Essential Plan:**

MediSource, MediSource Connect, Child Health Plus and Essential Plan cover high resolution anoscopy utilizing the criteria above.

### **Background:**

High resolution anoscopy has been investigated as a method to identify abnormal anal pathology in high-risk populations and as an adjunct tool in anal cytology screening (e.g., anal pap smears). Based on similarities between AIN and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), anal PAP smear has been proposed for both screening high-risk individuals and surveillance after treatment of AIN. HIV infected members are at a much higher risk of developing squamous cell cancer of the anus (SCCA) than the general population and have a poorer 5-year survival rate once it is diagnosed.

Anal dysplasia denotes precancerous changes in the squamous cells lining the anus. It is associated with HPV infection. Left untreated anal dysplasia may progress over time to SCCA.

According to the 2021 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sexually Transmitted Infection Guidelines, anal high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (aHSIL) diagnosis and management should be based on HRA-guided biopsy results. An evaluation of the peer-reviewed scientific literature, including but not limited to subscription materials, has provided Independent Health the basis for its medical necessity coverage outlined above.

**Pre-Authorization Required?** Yes  No

---

Pre-authorization is not required at the present time. Criteria above will be utilized upon retro-review.

## Definitions

---

**Anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN)** is a progression of the normal epithelium through precancerous alterations and is most commonly attributed to the human papillomavirus (HPV).

**High Resolution Anoscopy (HRA)** also known as colposcopy of the anal canal; involves careful examination of the anal canal utilizing an anoscope and a high-resolution colposcope. Dysplastic changes

in the mucosa or suspicious lesions are identified by topically applying a 3% acetic acid solution. Lugol's solution may also be utilized to help identify normal versus abnormal mucosa. Any suspicious lesions found are biopsied and sent to a lab or ablated.

**Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** is a slowly replicating retrovirus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), a condition in which progressive failure of the immune system allows life-threatening opportunistic infections and cancers to thrive. Infection with HIV occurs by the transfer of virus via body fluids including blood, saliva, semen, vaginal fluid, pre-ejaculate, breast milk, etc.

**Human papillomavirus (HPV)** is a family of viruses that can cause abnormal tissue growth (for example, warts) and other changes to cells. Infection for a long time with certain types of HPV can cause cervical cancer. Human papillomavirus also plays a role in some other types of cancer, such as anal, vaginal, vulvar, penile, oropharyngeal, and squamous cell skin cancers.

## References

---

### Related Policies, Processes and Other Documents

N/A

### Non-Regulatory references

Barroso LF, Stier EA, Hillman R, Palefsky J. Anal Cancer Screening and Prevention: Summary of Evidence Reviewed for the 2021 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sexually Transmitted Infection Guidelines. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2022 Apr 13;74(Suppl\_2):S179-S192

Gimenez F, Costa-e-Silva IT, Daumas A, et al. The value of high-resolution anoscopy in the diagnosis of anal cancer precursor lesions in HIV-positive patients. *Arq Gastroenterol.* 2011 Apr-Jun;48(2):136-45.

Palefsky JM, Brickman C. Anal squamous intraepithelial lesions: Epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, screening, prevention, and treatment. In: *UpToDate, Post TW (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA.* (Accessed on January 25, 2023.)

Thompson MA, Horberg MA, Agwu AL, Colasanti JA, Jain MK, Short WR, Singh T, Aberg JA. Primary Care Guidance for Persons With Human Immunodeficiency Virus: 2020 Update by the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2021 Dec 6;73(11): e3572-e3605.

United States Department of Veterans Affairs [web site]. Primary Care of Veterans with HIV; Section 2 Organ Systems and Metabolic; January 2019. Available at: <http://www.hiv.va.gov/provider/manual-primary-care/> Accessed January 30, 2024 .

### Regulatory References

New York State Medicaid Program. Physician - Procedure Codes, Section 5 – Surgery. Version April 2023. Available at:

<https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/Physician/PDFS/Physician%20Procedure%20Codes%20Sect5.pdf> Accessed January 30, 2024 .

***This policy contains medical necessity criteria that apply for this service. Please note that payment for covered services is subject to eligibility criteria, contract exclusions and the limitations noted in the member's contract at the time the services are rendered.***

## Version Control

---

Signature / Approval on File? Yes  No

Revision Date	Owner	Notes
4/1/2024	Health Care Services	Reviewed
1/1/2024	Health Care Services	Revised
4/1/2023	Health Care Services	Reviewed
4/1/2022	Health Care Services	Reviewed
4/1/2021	Health Care Services	Reviewed
5/1/2020	Health Care Services	Reviewed
6/1/2019	Medical Management	Reviewed
7/1/2018	Medical Management	Revised
8/1/2017	Medical Management	Revised
8/1/2016	Medical Management	Revised
6/1/2015	Medical Management	Revised
5/1/2014	Medical Management	Revised