



# MASSACHUSETTS

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## Medical Policy In Vivo Analysis of Colorectal Polyps

### Table of Contents

- [Policy: Commercial](#)
- [Policy: Medicare](#)
- [Authorization Information](#)
- [Coding Information](#)
- [Description](#)
- [Policy History](#)
- [Information Pertaining to All Policies](#)
- [References](#)

**Policy Number: 521**  
 BCBSA Reference Number: 2.01.51A  
 NCD/LCD: NA

### Related Policies

None

### Policy

**Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO and Indemnity  
 Medicare HMO Blue<sup>SM</sup> and Medicare PPO Blue<sup>SM</sup> Members**

In vivo analysis of colorectal polyps is [INVESTIGATIONAL](#).

### Prior Authorization Information

#### Inpatient

- For services described in this policy, precertification/preauthorization **IS REQUIRED** for all products if the procedure is performed **inpatient**.

#### Outpatient

- For services described in this policy, see below for products where prior authorization **might be required** if the procedure is performed **outpatient**.

	<b>Outpatient</b>
<b>Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)</b>	This is <b>not</b> a covered service.
<b>Commercial PPO and Indemnity</b>	This is <b>not</b> a covered service.
<b>Medicare HMO Blue<sup>SM</sup></b>	This is <b>not</b> a covered service.
<b>Medicare PPO Blue<sup>SM</sup></b>	This is <b>not</b> a covered service.

### CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD Codes

*Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.*

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

## CPT Codes

There is no specific CPT code for this service.

## Description

Identification of premalignant lesions is considered one of the cornerstones of colorectal cancer prevention. While hyperplastic polyps are considered benign without malignant potential, adenomatous polyps are thought to represent one of the earliest stages in the progression to a malignancy. Techniques have been developed as adjuncts to colonoscopy that are intended to distinguish between normal and precancerous tissue.

The first system developed was based on the observation that benign and malignant tissues emit different patterns and wavelengths of fluorescence after exposure to a laser light. One such device consists of an optical fiber emitting a laser that is directed against three different regions of the same polyp. The subsequent fluorescent signal is collected, measured, and analyzed by a proprietary system software, and classifies a polyp as "suspicious" (i.e., adenomatous) or "not suspicious" (i.e., hyperplastic).

Narrow band imaging (NBI) is another technique that allows visualization of the mucosal surface and capillary vessels and thus may assist in the differentiation of abnormal from normal mucosa during colonoscopy.

Examples of devices for in vivo analysis of colorectal polyps include the Optical Biopsy System from Spectra Science and the EVIS EXERA 160A System from Olympus Medical Systems Corp. All devices for in vivo analysis of colorectal polyps are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

## Summary

The pivotal question is whether any in vivo analysis of colorectal polyps is superior to established colorectal screening procedures. Randomized trial data, in which participants receive both in vivo and standard screening tests, and histologic confirmation of disease is matched to screening test results for each polyp are required to evaluate this technology. These studies have not been done. Since the impact of this technology on health outcomes is not known, it is considered investigational.

## Policy History

Date	Action
02/2020	Policy updated with literature review through February 1, 2020, references added. Policy statements unchanged.
11/2011-4/2012	Medical policy ICD 10 remediation: Formatting, editing and coding updates. No changes to policy statements
7/2011	Reviewed - Medical Policy Group - Hematology and Oncology. No changes to policy statements.
2/2/2011	New policy effective 2/2/2011 describing ongoing non-coverage.

## Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies

Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:

[Medical Policy Terms of Use](#)

[Managed Care Guidelines](#)

[Indemnity/PPO Guidelines](#)

[Clinical Exception Process](#)

[Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines](#)

## References

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