

<b>Subject: Diagnostic CT Colonography (74261, 74262)</b>		<b>Original Effective Date:</b> 12/13/17
<b>Policy Number:</b> MCR: 642(a)	<b>Revision Date(s):</b>	
<b>Review Date: 12/13/17, 12/19/18</b>		

**DISCLAIMER**

*This Molina Clinical Review (MCR) is intended to facilitate the Utilization Management process. It expresses Molina's determination as to whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary, experimental, investigational, or cosmetic for purposes of determining appropriateness of payment. The conclusion that a particular service or supply is medically necessary does not constitute a representation or warranty that this service or supply is covered (i.e., will be paid for by Molina) for a particular member. The member's benefit plan determines coverage. Each benefit plan defines which services are covered, which are excluded, and which are subject to dollar caps or other limits. Members and their providers will need to consult the member's benefit plan to determine if there are any exclusion(s) or other benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. If there is a discrepancy between this policy and a member's plan of benefits, the benefits plan will govern. In addition, coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of a State, the Federal government or CMS for Medicare and Medicaid members. CMS's Coverage Database can be found on the CMS website. The coverage directive(s) and criteria from an existing National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) will supersede the contents of this Molina Clinical Review (MCR) document and provide the directive for all Medicare members.*

**DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE/SERVICE/PHARMACEUTICAL**

Computed tomographic (CT) colonography (also called virtual colonoscopy) is an imaging procedure that electronically processes a large data set of contiguous x-ray images acquired at multiple angles on a CT scanner to produce 3D images of an air filled, distended and cleansed colon (large intestine). This computer simulated representation of the inside of the colon allows the physician reviewer to visualize and navigate the interior (lumen) of the colon to diagnose polyps, cancer or other bowel diseases.

**APPROVAL SUPPORT**

**Evaluation of patients who had a failed or incomplete colonoscopy or are unable to undergo the procedure**

- Failed prior colonoscopy due to anatomic reasons or complications during the procedure.
- Patient has certain medical conditions which make conventional colonoscopy not possible such as bleeding disorders, severe heart or lung problems, unable to be sedated, etc.
- Incomplete colonoscopy due to poor bowel prep is not an indication for CT Colonography

**ADDITIONAL CRITICAL INFORMATION**

The above medical necessity recommendations are used to determine the best diagnostic study based on a patient's specific clinical circumstances. The recommendations were developed using evidence based studies and current accepted clinical practices. Medical necessity will be

determined using a combination of these recommendations as well as the patient’s individual clinical or social circumstances.

- Tests that will not change treatment plans should not be recommended.
- Same or similar tests recently completed need a specific reason for repeat imaging.

#### REFERENCES USED FOR DETERMINATIONS

1. Rosman AS, Korsten, MA Meta-analysis comparing CT colonography, air contrast barium enema, and colonoscopy. *Am J Med* 2007 Mar;120(3):203-210.e4
2. Roberts-Thomson, I.C., Tucker, G.R., Hewett, P.J., Cheung, P., Sebben, R.A., Khoo, E.E., Clapton, W.K. (2008). Single-center study comparing computed tomography colonography with conventional colonoscopy. *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, 14(3), 469-473. doi: 10.3748/wjg.14.469.
3. *Final Update Summary: Colorectal Cancer: Screening*. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. June 2016.  
[https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/colorectal-cancer-screening2?ds=1&s=colon cancer](https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/colorectal-cancer-screening2?ds=1&s=colon+cancer)
4. Shapiro JA, Klabunde CN, Thompson TD, Nadel MR, Seeff LC, White A. Patterns of colorectal cancer test use, including CT colonography, in the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2012; 21(6):895-904.
5. Kim DH, Pickhardt PJ, Taylor A, et al, CT colonography versus colonoscopy for the detection of advanced neoplasia, *N Engl J Med*, 2007; 357:1403-1412, accessed at <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa070543> September 2, 2011.
6. American College of Radiology. ACR Practice Guideline for the Performance of Computed Tomography (CT) Colonography in Adults. 2009; Available at: [http://www.acr.org/~media/ACR/Documents/PGTS/guidelines/CT\\_Colonography.pdf](http://www.acr.org/~media/ACR/Documents/PGTS/guidelines/CT_Colonography.pdf). Accessed 19 March 2013.
7. American College of Radiology (ACR). ACR-SAR-SCBT-MR practice parameter for the performance of computed tomography (CT) colonography in adults. 2014.

**CODING INFORMATION:** THE CODES LISTED IN THIS POLICY ARE FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. LISTING OF A SERVICE OR DEVICE CODE IN THIS POLICY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE SERVICE DESCRIBED BY THIS CODE IS COVERED OR NON-COVERED. COVERAGE IS DETERMINED BY THE BENEFIT DOCUMENT. THIS LIST OF CODES MAY NOT BE ALL INCLUSIVE.

	Description
74261	CT (Computed Tomography) Colonography, without contrast
74262	CT (Computed Tomography) Colonography, with contrast