Authorization criteria:
Cholecystectomy (laparoscopic)
for adults
For BCN HMO<sup>SM</sup> (commercial) and BCN Advantage<sup>SM</sup> members only

Clinical review is required for adult members (age ≥18). The medical necessity criteria are outlined below.

CPT codes: *47562, *47563 and *47564

**Acute acalculous cholecystitis**
(Inflammation of the gallbladder without the presence of gallstones)

ALL the following:
1. Symptoms of ANY of the following:
   a. Biliary colic (severe cramping in the abdomen)
   b. Pain in the upper abdomen or back
   c. Nausea or vomiting
   d. Intolerance to food
2. Clinical findings of ANY of the following:
   a. Temperature >100.4 degrees F (38.0 degrees C)
   b. Elevated WBC (above normal)
3. Absence of gallstones or sludge on ultrasound AND ONE of the following:
   a. Gallbladder wall thickening on ultrasound
   b. Pericholecystic fluid (fluid around the gallbladder) on ultrasound
   c. Nonvisualization or recognition of the gallbladder by HIDA scan

**Acute cholecystitis**
(Inflammation of the gallbladder with the presence of gallstones)

ALL the following:
1. Symptoms of ANY of the following:
   a. Biliary colic
   b. Pain in upper abdomen or back
   c. Nausea or vomiting
   d. Positive sonographic Murphy’s sign (right upper quadrant tenderness to manual palpation or sonographic probe palpation)
2. Temperature >100.4 degrees F (38.0 degrees C)
3. Elevated WBC (above normal)
4. ONE of the following:
   a. Gallstones with gallbladder wall thickening or pericholecystic fluid (fluid around the gallbladder) on ultrasound
   b. Nonvisualization / recognition of the gallbladder by HIDA scan

**Biliary colic**
(Severe cramping in the abdomen)

ALL of the following:
1. Recurrent pain in upper abdomen or back
2. Gallstones or sludge on imaging

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Suspected chronic cholecystitis
(Severe cramping in the abdomen)
ALL of the following:
1. Recurrent pain in upper abdomen or back
2. Gallstones or sludge on imaging

Gallbladder polyp
ALL of the following:
1. Polyp >10 mm
2. Polyp growing in size as identified on serial imaging
3. Sessile polyp (for example, a polyp with a broad base rather than being attached to tissue by means of a slender stalk)

Gallbladder wall abnormality or suspected cancer
ANY of the following:
1. Calcified gallbladder wall without metastases on X-ray or imaging
2. Gallbladder mucosal wall thickening on ultrasound without metastasis on imaging
3. Suspected cancer of the gallbladder

Gallstone pancreatitis
ANY of the following:
1. Common bile duct stones OR enlargement identified by imaging and intraoperative cholangiogram planned
2. Plans for postendoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) imaging AND sphincterotomy OR stone extraction

Suspected chronic acalculous cholecystitis
ALL of the following:
1. Recurrent pain after eating in the upper abdomen or back
2. Absence of gallstones or sludge by ultrasound
3. Gallbladder ejection fraction ≤35% (by CCK-HIDA scan)

References
McKesson’s InterQual® 2015 Procedures Criteria, Cholecystectomy, Laparoscopic, Age ≥ 18.
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References (continued)


Guide to Inpatient Quality Indicators, Version 3.0 (February 20, 2006); 5.26 Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Rate (IQI 23). AHRQ Quality Indicators Site: www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov.

Elia Pulvirenti; Adriana Toro; Michel Gagner; Maurizio Mannino; Isidoro Di Carlo. “Increased Rate of Cholecystectomies Performed With Doubtful or No Indications After Laparoscopy Introduction,” <i>BMC Surg</i>. 2013;13(17).