

Here is an update to information published earlier about authorization requirements for monitored anesthesia care used during gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures.

A. Will authorization be required as of Jan. 8, 2017, for monitored anesthesia care during certain gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures?

No. At this time, BCN has decided not to require authorization for monitored anesthesia care during certain GI endoscopy procedures. See the note at the end of this document for a list of the pertinent procedure codes.

B. Will BCN ever require authorization for monitored anesthesia care during certain GI endoscopy procedures?

BCN will reassess the need for the authorization requirement later in 2017. If BCN decides to move forward with this requirement, we will let you know the start date.

C. Has BCN changed its medical policy on monitored anesthesia care?

No, BCN has not changed its medical policy on monitored anesthesia. The policy is titled [Monitored Anesthesia Care](#). You can locate this policy by completing the following steps:

1. Visit bcbsm.com/providers and log in to Provider Secured Services.
2. Click *BCN Provider Publications and Resources*.
3. Click *Medical Policy Manual*.
4. Click *Policies by Name*.
5. Click *M*.
6. Click *Monitored Anesthesia Care*.

D. Did BCN seek advice from providers before deciding to implement the authorization requirement initially?

Yes. BCN asked for input from many providers before making its original decision to require authorization for monitored anesthesia during certain gastrointestinal procedures. Since announcing the start date of the requirement, BCN has continued to meet with providers about this.

E. How did input from providers help BCN to reassess the requirement?

BCN's decision to reassess the requirement was not made solely in response to providers' input. However, the input providers gave was valued and did influence BCN's decision. Actually, various considerations led to BCN's decision to reassess the requirement. One is that some providers intend to accommodate the new requirement but want more time to get ready for it. Another is that some providers are seeking ways to achieve exempt status before the requirement starts and they need more time to work on that. Also, there are new professional society guidelines expected in early 2017 and BCN feels it's important to take these into account. BCN may decide there's no need to require authorization if, for example, new published evidence or guidelines prompt a change in the medical policy. And, if providers begin using monitored anesthesia care at lower rates, an authorization requirement may be unnecessary.

F. Where should I direct questions about authorization for monitored anesthesia care during certain GI endoscopy procedures?

You should call your provider consultant.

Note: This is a list of the pertinent GI endoscopy procedure codes:

- *43200
- *43202
- *43212
- *43216-43217
- *43229
- *43231
- *43235-43239
- *43241-43242
- *43235
- *43237
- *43250-43251
- *43259
- *43266
- *43270
- *44380
- *44381-44382
- *44385-44368
- *44388-44389
- *44392-44394
- *44404-44405
- *45300
- *45305
- *45308-45309
- *45315
- *45320
- *45330-45331
- *45333-45335
- *45338-45339
- *45340-45342
- *45435-45347
- *45349-45350
- *45355
- *45378
- *45380-45389
- *45391-45393
- *45398
- G0104-G0105
- G0121
- G6024

The pertinent anesthesia codes are *00740 and *00810.

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