ANORECTAL TESTING

- Anorectal Manometry
- Evacuation Proctography
- Magnetic Resonance (MR) Defecography
- Nerve Latency Measurement
- Rectal Sensation Test

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.
ANORECTAL TESTING (cont.)

Description:

**Anorectal Manometry:**
Measurement of pressures within the anal canal and sphincter during contraction and at rest.

**Evacuation Proctography (Defecography):**
Radiographic imaging of the process, rate and completeness of rectal evacuation. Also known as X-ray videoproctography.

**Magnetic Resonance (MR) Defecography:**
MR imaging of the pelvic floor muscles and soft tissues to evaluate rectal evacuation. Also called dynamic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of defecation.

**Nerve Latency Measurement:**
Measurement of conduction of the pudendal nerve using stimulating and recording electrodes. Also called pudendal nerve terminal motor latency (PNTML) or pudendal nerve motor latency test (PNMLT).

**Rectal Sensation Test:**
Balloon distention of the bowel to determine the smallest volume that produces rectal sensation, the sensation of urge to defecate and the sensation of pain at the maximum tolerable volume.

Criteria:

**Anorectal Manometry:**

- Anorectal manometry is considered *medically necessary* for evaluation of ANY of the following:
  1. Fecal incontinence
  2. Chronic severe constipation with pelvic floor dysfunction
  3. Hirschsprung’s disease is suspected
  4. Anatomic defects of the anal sphincter, when other tests (i.e. ultrasound, barium enema) are not diagnostic

- Anorectal manometry for all other indications not previously listed is considered *experimental or investigational* based upon insufficient evidence to support an improved health outcome.
ANORECTAL TESTING (cont.)

Criteria: (cont.)

Evacuation Proctography:

- Evacuation proctography (defecography) is considered medically necessary for evaluation of chronic constipation when ANY of the following are suspected:
  1. Pelvic floor dysfunction
  2. Enterocele
  3. Anterior rectocele

- Evacuation proctography for all other indications not previously listed is considered experimental or investigational based upon insufficient evidence to support an improved health outcome.

Rectal Sensation Test:

- Rectal sensation test is considered medically necessary for ANY of the following:
  1. To define functional weakness of the external or internal anal sphincter
  2. To detect abnormal rectal sensation

- Rectal sensation test for all other indications not previously listed is considered experimental or investigational based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.
ANORECTAL TESTING (cont.)

Criteria: (cont.)

**MR Defecography:**

- MR defecography is considered *experimental or investigational* based upon:
  
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives.

**Nerve Latency Measurement:**

- Nerve latency measurement of the pudendal nerve is considered *experimental or investigational* based upon:
  
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

**Resources:**


ANORECTAL TESTING (cont.)

**Resources:** (cont.)


ANORECTAL TESTING (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


ANORECTAL TESTING (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


