



Adult outpatient gastroenterology and otolaryngology surgery precertification initiative

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Healthcare Solutions requires outpatient gastroenterology and otolaryngology surgery procedures to be provided at an ambulatory surgery center (ASC) or provider office unless precertified at a hospital. Effective January 1, 2023, only services that cannot be provided safely and effectively at a freestanding ASC or an office will be approved to be performed at the hospital.

What is the impact of this change?

Unless there is a medical reason for providing the outpatient surgery procedure listed on the provided code list in a hospital, the services must be performed at a freestanding ASC or in an office. Members who are under 18 years of age are excluded from this initiative.

Providers should review below for a list of procedure codes that will require precertification to be performed in a hospital. For code-specific precertification requirements, please refer to <https://bit.ly/3TKY8uB>.

How do I obtain precertification?

Precertification requests can be submitted through the Availity Essentials* at <https://www.availity.com> or by calling Provider Services at **844-396-2330** and providing clinical documentation showing a medical reason why the member needs to have an outpatient surgery procedure done in a hospital.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Experience representative or call Provider Services at **844-396-2330**.

* Availity, LLC is an independent company providing administrative support services on behalf of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Healthcare Solutions.

CG-SURG-52 medical necessity criteria

An outpatient surgery in a hospital-based facility is considered medically necessary when all of the following are present:

- The procedure requires that it be performed only by, or under, the general supervision of a licensed clinician.
- The individual's medical status or the procedure requires enhanced monitoring beyond what would routinely be needed for rendering such services in a free-standing ambulatory procedural setting.
- The potential changes in the individual's medical status could require immediate access to specific services of a medical center/hospital setting, such as emergency resuscitation equipment and personnel, and inpatient admission or intensive care. For example, the individual is at significant risk of sudden life-threatening changes in medical status based on clinical conditions including but not limited to:
 - Concerns regarding fluid overload status.
 - History of significant instability during a prior procedure that is considered a risk for other future procedures.
 - At risk for excessive bleeding.
 - Acute mental status changes.
 - Under the age of 18.
 - Pregnancy.
 - Increased risk for complication due to severe comorbidity, such as that evidenced by an American society of anesthesiologist's (ASA) class iii physical status or greater.
 - Prolonged anesthesia is anticipated.
- An outpatient surgery in a hospital-based facility is considered medically necessary when there are no other geographically accessible appropriate alternative sites for the member to undergo the procedure.

Procedure codes required for precertification in a hospital

The following procedure codes will require precertification to be performed in a hospital for members 18 years of age and older.

Procedures performed in association with an ER visit or associated with an outpatient surgery performed at a hospital on the same day will not require precertification.

GI

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|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 45385 | | 43239 | 43204 | 43244 | 43238 | 43243 |
| 43227 | | 43231 | 43250 | 45380 | 43236 | 43249 |
| 43255 | | 43202 | 43242 | 44361 | 43219 | 45386 |
| 43200 | | 43259 | 46221 | 43241 | 45378 | |
| 44385 | | 43237 | 45379 | 45384 | 43201 | |
| 44360 | | 43247 | 43216 | 43258 | 43215 | |
| 43235 | | 43251 | 43240 | 43220 | 43226 | |
| 43248 | | 43256 | 45382 | 43246 | 43205 | |
| 43257 | | 43232 | 43228 | 43245 | 43217 | |
| 43270 | | 43234 | 44380 | 44382 | 45381 | |

ENT

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|-------|-------|
| 42826 | 69610 |
| 42821 | 42835 |
| 42831 | 69420 |
| 42830 | |
| 69433 | |
| 69436 | |
| 42820 | |
| 42825 | |
| 69421 | |
| 42836 | |



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To start receiving email from us (including some sent in lieu of fax or mail), submit your information using the QR code to the right or via our online form (<https://bit.ly/3IGTrCq>).

