Anesthesia for Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pain Procedures

Effective October 1, 2011, BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York will require preauthorization for the use of anesthesia services or monitored anesthesia care (MAC) during bronchoscopy and interventional pain procedures when administered by an anesthesia provider. These procedures are generally performed under moderate sedation when given by, or under the supervision of, the physician performing the procedure.

Use of anesthesia or MAC is not considered medically necessary for standard bronchoscopy and interventional pain procedures in patients with average risk. If you engage an anesthesia provider for any patient, age 12 through 69, documentation must be submitted indicating that one of the following risk factors or significant medical conditions* are present:

- Increased risk for complications due to severe co-morbidity (American Society of Anesthesiologists [ASA] class III [PS3] or greater)
- Body mass index (BMI) >50
- Severe sleep apnea (oxygen and bi-pap required during sleep)
- Inability to follow simple commands (cognitive dysfunction, intoxication, or psychological impairment)
- Spasticity or movement disorder complicating procedure
- History or anticipated intolerance to standard sedatives such as chronic opioid use or chronic benzodiazepine use
- Patients with active medical problems related to drug or alcohol abuse
- Patient is pregnant
- Patients with increased risk for airway obstruction due to anatomic variation, such as:
  - History of sleep apnea or stridor
  - Dysmorphic facial features
  - Oral abnormalities (e.g., macroglossia)
Neck abnormalities (e.g., neck mass)
- Jaw abnormalities (e.g., micrognathia)
- Patient acutely agitated, uncooperative
- Prolonged or therapeutic procedure requiring deep-sedation

* These qualifying conditions are based on a national standard criterion set.

Preauthorization request should be faxed to our Use Management department along with the required documentation at 1-716-887-7913.

If preauthorization has not been obtained, the anesthesiologist's claims will be subject to a processing delay and potential denial.

**Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes pertaining to bronchoscopy and interventional pain procedures:**

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As new CPT and HCPCS codes are added to the coding manuals, additional codes may apply. Refer to the Code and Comment section on our provider website to verify new codes that may be relevant.