

# MedStar Health, Inc.

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: MP.055.MH  
Last Review Date: 08/15/2019  
Effective Date: 10/01/2019

### MP.055.MH – Computed Tomographic Colonography

This policy applies to the following lines of business:

- ✓ MedStar Employee (Select)
- ✓ MedStar CareFirst PPO

MedStar Health considers **Computed Tomographic (CT) Colonography (Virtual Colonoscopy)** medically necessary for the following diagnostic indications:

- Preoperative cancer staging and the determination of colonic wall invasion
- Patients in whom a standard colonoscopy of the entire colon is incomplete due to an inability to pass the colonoscope proximally

#### Limitations

CT Colonography is not reimbursable when used as a **screening** alternative to standard endoscopic colonoscopy **except** in the following circumstances:

- Patients for whom a conventional colonoscopy is a contraindication due to coagulopathy, lifetime anticoagulation or long-term anticoagulation therapy for whom it would be hazardous to discontinue
- Patients with increased sedation risk (COPD, previous adverse reaction to anesthesia)
- Patients with diverticular disease with an increased risk for perforation
- Patients with complications from previous standard colonoscopy
- Patients with known obstruction (such as cancer, diverticulitis, aberrant anatomy/scarring from prior surgery, adhesions, stricture, tortuosity, spasm, redundant colon, extrinsic compression)

#### Background

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States and the third most common cancer worldwide. The American Cancer Society (ACS), the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer and American College of Radiology's joint guideline recommends preventive screening is recommended for everyone over 50 years of age. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), not enough people are getting screened for colorectal cancer. In 2012, 65% of U.S. adults were up-to-date with colorectal cancer screening; 7% had been screened, but were not up-to-date; and 28% had never been screened.

## MP.055.MH – Computed Tomographic Colonography

Policy Number: MP.055.MH  
Last Review Date: 08/15/2019  
Effective Date: 10/01/2019

Computed tomography colonography (CTC), first introduced in 1994, is a minimally invasive imaging technique that aims to detect precancerous and cancerous lesions at an early stage so they can be removed most effectively by obtaining detailed 2D and 3D images of the colon and rectum. It utilizes helical computed tomography of the abdomen and pelvis to visualize the colon lumen, along with 2D or 3D reconstruction. The test requires colonic preparation similar to that required for flexible colonoscopy, and air insufflation to achieve colonic distention.

### Codes:

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes	
Code	Description
<b>CPT Codes</b>	
74261	Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, diagnostic, including image post processing; without contrast material
74262	Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, diagnostic, including image post processing; with contrast material including non-contrast images, if performed

### References

1. Akhtar R, Lee M, Itzkowitz SH. Colonoscopy versus computed tomography colonography for colorectal cancer screening. Mt. Sinai J Med. 2010 Mar-Apr;77(2):214-24. doi: 10.1002/msj.20175. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20309919>
2. American Cancer Society. Colorectal Cancer – early detection. 01/17/2017. <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/colonandrectumcancer/moreinformation/colonandrectumcancerearlydetection/colorectal-cancer-early-detection-screening-tests-used>
3. Boone D, Halligan S, Taylor SA. Evidence review and status update on computed tomography colonography. Curr Gastroenterol Rep 2011 Oct;13(5):486-94. doi: 10.1007/s11894-011-0217-5. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21773705>
4. Bretthauer M, Holme Ø, Garborg K. Computed tomography colonography vs. colonoscopy for colorectal cancer screening: close call, but not closed case. Endoscopy 2013;45(3):159-60. doi: 10.1055/s-0032-1326208. Epub 2013 Feb 27. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23446666>
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Frequently Asked Questions about Colorectal Cancer, Jan. 20, 2019 [http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/basic\\_info/faq.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/basic_info/faq.htm)

## MP.055.MH – Computed Tomographic Colonography

Policy Number: MP.055.MH

Last Review Date: 08/15/2019

Effective Date: 10/01/2019

6. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Decision Memo for Screening Computed Tomography Colonography (CTC) for Colorectal Cancer (CAG-00396N), 05/12/2009 <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=220&ver=14&NcaName=Screening+Computed+Tomography+Colonography+%28CTC%29+for+Colorectal+Cancer&bc=BEAAAAAEAAA&&fromdb=true#>
7. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). National Coverage Determination (NCD). No. 210.3 – Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests. Effective date: 5/12/2009. <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=281&ncdver=3&bc=AgAAgAAAAAAAAA%3d%3d&>
8. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L34055- Virtual Colonoscopy (CT Colonography) Effective Date 10/01/2017. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=34055&ver=8&CoverageSelection=Local&ArticleType=All&PolicyType=Final&s=All&Keyword=CT+Colonography&KeywordLookUp=Title&KeywordSearchType=And&bc=qAAAACAAAAAA&>
9. American College of Radiology. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Colorectal Cancer Screening). Updated: 2018. <https://acsearch.acr.org/docs/69469/Narrative/>
10. Hayes Medical Technology Directory. Computed Tomography Colonography (Virtual Colonography). Annual Review July 16, 2012. Archived April 13, 2013.
11. Frentz SM, Summers RM. Current status of CT colonography. Acad Radiol. 2006; 13:1517-1531. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1764496/>
12. Harder B: The screen team: less unpleasant colon exams might catch more cancer. Science News, Aug. 19, 2006; 170(8):122 [http://www.jstor.org/stable/4017223?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4017223?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)
13. Kim DH, Pickhardt PJ, Taylor AJ et al. CT colonography versus colonoscopy for the detection of advanced neoplasia. N Engl J Med 2007 357:1403-1412. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa070543#t=articleResults>
14. McFarland EG, Levin B, Lieberman DA, et al. Revised colorectal screening guidelines: joint effort of the American Cancer Society, US. Multisociety Task Force on Colorectal Cancer and American College of Radiology. Radiology 2008; 248:717-720. <http://radiology.rsna.org/content/248/3/717.full.pdf+html>
15. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, Interventional Procedure Guidance 129, Computed tomographic colonography (virtual colonoscopy) 06/2005. <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/IPG129>
16. Whitlock EP, Lin JS, Liles E, et al. Screening for colorectal cancer: a targeted, updated systematic review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Ann Intern Med 2008; 149:638-658. <http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=743563>

## MP.055.MH – Computed Tomographic Colonography

Policy Number: MP.055.MH

Last Review Date: 08/15/2019

Effective Date: 10/01/2019

### **Disclaimer:**

MedStar Health medical payment and prior authorization policies do not constitute medical advice and are not intended to govern or otherwise influence the practice of medicine. The policies constitute only the reimbursement and coverage guidelines of MedStar Health and its affiliated managed care entities. Coverage for services varies for individual members in accordance with the terms and conditions of applicable Certificates of Coverage, Summary Plan Descriptions, or contracts with governing regulatory agencies.

MedStar Health reserves the right to review and update the medical payment and prior authorization guidelines in its sole discretion. Notice of such changes, if necessary, shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of provider agreements and any applicable laws or regulations.

These policies are the proprietary information of Evolent Health. Any sale, copying, or dissemination of said policies is prohibited.