

## Esophageal pH Monitoring

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### Disclaimer

Highmark Health Options medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Esophageal pH monitoring using wired or wireless devices can record the pH of the lower esophagus for a period of one (1) to several days. These devices may aid in the diagnosis of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) in individuals who have an uncertain diagnosis after clinical evaluation and endoscopy.

### DEFINITIONS

**Highmark Health Option (HHO)** – Managed care organization serving vulnerable populations that have complex needs and qualify for Medicaid. Highmark Health Options members include individuals and families with low income, expecting mothers, children, and people with disabilities. Members pay nothing to very little for their health coverage. Highmark Health Options currently serves Delaware Medicaid: Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plan and Health Plan Plus members.

### POLICY POSITION

Esophageal pH monitoring may be considered medically necessary in adults, children, or adolescents capable to report symptoms for the following:

- Documentation of abnormal acid exposure in endoscopy-negative individual being considered for surgical anti-reflux repair; or
- Evaluation of individual after anti-reflux surgery who are suspected of having ongoing abnormal reflux; or
- Evaluation of individual with either normal or equivocal endoscopic findings and reflux symptoms that are refractory to proton pump inhibitor (PPI) therapy; or
- Evaluation of refractory reflux in individual with chest pain after cardiac evaluation and after a four (4)-week trial of PPI therapy; or
- Evaluation of suspected otolaryngologic manifestations of GERD (laryngitis, pharyngitis, chronic cough) in individuals who have failed to respond to at least four (4)-weeks of PPI therapy; or

- Evaluation of concomitant GERD in with adult-onset, non-allergic asthma suspected of having reflux-induced asthma.

Twenty-four (24) hour catheter-based esophageal pH monitoring may be considered medically necessary in infants or children unable to report or describe symptoms of reflux with:

- Unexplained apnea; or
- Bradycardia; or
- Refractory coughing, wheezing or recurrent aspiration; or
- Persistent or recurrent laryngitis; or
- Persistent or recurrent pneumonia.

Esophageal pH monitoring is considered not medical necessary when performed for indications other than those listed above.

Esophageal pH monitoring is typically an outpatient procedure which is only eligible for coverage as an inpatient procedure in special circumstances, including, but not limited to, the presence of a comorbid condition that would require monitoring in a more controlled environment such as the inpatient setting.

## PROCEDURE CODES

Table	Style
91034	Esophagus, Gastroesophageal Reflux Test; With Nasal Catheter Ph Electrode(s) Placement, Recording, Analysis And Interpretation.
91035	Esophagus, Gastroesophageal Reflux Test; With Mucosal Attached Telemetry Ph Electrode Placement, Recording, Analysis And Interpretation.
91037	Esophageal Function Test, Gastroesophageal Reflux Test With Nasal Catheter Intraluminal Impedance Electode(s) Placement, Recording, Analysis And Interpretation.
91038	Esophageal Function Test, Gastroesophageal Reflux Test With Nasal Catheter Intraluminal Impedance Electode(s) Placement, Recording, Analysis And Interpretation; Prolonged (greater than 1 Hour, Up To 24 Hours).

## Eligible Diagnosis Codes for Procedure Codes 91034 and 91035

Diagnosis Codes				
G47.30	G47.31	G47.32	G47.33	J31.2
J37.0	J45.20	J45.21	J45.22	J45.30
J45.31	J45.32	J45.40	J45.41	J45.42
J45.50	J45.51	J45.52	J45.901	J45.902
J45.909	J45.990	J45.991	J45.998	J69.0
J82.83	K20.80	K20.81	K20.90	K20.91
K21.00	K21.01	K21.9	P28.0	P28.10
P28.11	P28.19	P28.2	P28.3	P28.4
P28.5	P28.81	P28.89	P28.9	R00.1
R05.3	R05.8	R06.1	R06.2	R06.81

R07.89	R13.10	R13.11	R13.12	R13.13
R13.14	R13.19			

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