

Per-Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM)

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Approved By:	Highmark Health Options – Market Leadership
Provider Notice Date:	
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Products:	Medicaid
Application:	All participating hospitals and providers
Page Number(s):	1 of 3

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

Highmark Health Options may provide coverage under medical surgical benefits of the Company's Medicaid products for medically necessary per-oral endoscopic myotomy.

This policy is designed to address medical necessity guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness or condition. Each person's unique clinical circumstances warrant individual consideration, based upon review of applicable medical records.

The qualifications of the policy will meet the standards of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and all applicable state and federal regulations.

DEFINITIONS

Highmark Health Options (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 services Delaware Medicaid: Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plan Plus members.

Per-oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) – An endoscopic procedure used to treat swallowing disorders, most commonly achalasia. POEM is a procedure that uses endoscopic technology to guide an endoscope through the esophagus, creating a submucosal tunnel in the lower part of the esophagus to reach the inner circular muscle bundles of the lower esophageal sphincter to perform myotomy.

PROCEDURES

A prior authorization is required.

POEM is considered medically necessary when ALL of the following criteria are met:

- The individual has been diagnosed with achalasia; and
- The diagnosis of achalasia has been confirmed by a positive esophageal manometry, EGD and barium swallow.

POEM for individuals under the age of 18 or any other indication not listed above is considered experimental/investigational and therefore, noncovered because the safety and/or effectiveness of this service cannot be established by the available published peer-reviewed literature.

Post-payment Audit Statement

The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by Highmark Health Options at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.

Place of Service: Inpatient/Outpatient

Experimental/investigational (E/I) services are not covered regardless of place of service.

POEM 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 co-morbid condition that would require monitoring in a more controlled environment such as the inpatient setting.

CODING REQUIREMENTS

CPT code	Description
43499	Unlisted procedure, Esophagus.

Covered Diagnosis Code

K22.0

REIMBURSEMENT

Participating facilities will be reimbursed per their Highmark Health Options contract.

References

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POLICY UPDATE HISTORY

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