MP.114.PW – High-Resolution Anoscopy

This policy applies to the following lines of business:
✓ Piedmont Commercial

Piedmont WellStar HealthPlans considers High-Resolution Anoscopy (HRA) medically necessary for the following indications:

Members Referred for HRA have both of the following criteria:
1. Part of patient population at increased risk for anal cancer including any of the following:
   a. Men having sex with men (MSM)
   b. Men and women with HIV disease
   c. Women with a history of high-grade genital dysplasia (cervical, vaginal and vulvar)
   d. HPV patients especially those with a history of genital warts, either internal or external
   e. Solid organ transplant recipients who are immunosuppressed
   f. Long-term corticosteroid users
   g. Smokers
2. Anal cytology findings of any of the following:
   a. ASC-US (atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance) = AIN I
   b. LSIL (low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion) = AIN I
   c. ASC-H (atypical squamous cell, cannot rule out a high grade lesion) = AIN II
   d. HSIL (high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion) = AIN II or III

HRA referrals for members with anal symptoms suspicious of dysplastic progression in which anal cytopathology is not available will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
These include members with either of the following conditions:
1. Solid organ transplant candidates who are immunosuppressed
2. Women with high grade genital dysplasias or history of cancer

Frequency of follow-up with HRA generally includes the following:
1. Normal findings – repeat cytology in 1 year
2. ASC-US, LSIL, ASC-H, or HSIL
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- Patients with AIN I can be followed up every 6-12 months
- Patients with AIN II or III - therapy is recommended with follow-up in 6 months post therapy

Limitations
- HRA is not covered for routine screening in any population at this time (only indicated for diagnostic use)
- Coverage of this procedure is limited to physicians or advanced practice clinicians who have completed comprehensive training in HRA such as provided through the ASCCP/AMC (AIDS Malignancy Consortium)/ACTG (Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group) High Resolution Anoscopy (HRA) certification process.
- Coverage of HRA, when performed in conjunction with treatment/destruction of the anal dysplastic lesions, will be considered global to the primary procedure.

Background
Anal dysplasia, caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), is defined as abnormal cells or lesions in the lining of the anal canal. Although the incidence of anal cancer is low in the United States, if it is detected early it can be treated successfully. The incidence varies depending on the presence of risk factors such as multiple sex partners, HPV and/or HIV infection, receptive anal intercourse, history of anal warts, STIs and/or fissures, being over 50 years old, women with a history of cervical cancer, and smoking cigarettes.

High-resolution anoscopy (HRA) is a minimally invasive procedure for more detailed identification, management and treatment of anal dysplasia in high-risk populations. During the HRA procedure, a lubricated anoscope is inserted into the anal canal. A cotton swab wrapped in gauze and soaked in 3-percent acetic acid is then inserted through the anoscope, and the anoscope is removed, leaving the gauze in place. The acetic acid gives dysplastic epithelium a white appearance. After two minutes, the gauze is removed and the anoscope reinserted. A high-resolution colposcope (magnification of 10x to 40x) is used to view the walls of the anus. A biopsy of suspicious tissue can be taken. The procedure is generally performed in an office setting in either a bent over or lying position and usually takes approximately 15 minutes.

Codes:

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<tr>
<th>CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>46601</td>
<td>Diagnostic, with high-resolution magnification (HRA) (e.g., colposcope, operating microscope) and chemical agent enhancement, including collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing, when performed</td>
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<tr>
<td>44607</td>
<td>With high-resolution magnification (HRA) (e.g., colposcope, operating microscope) and chemical agent enhancement, with biopsy, single or multiple</td>
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**HCPCS codes covered if selection criteria are met (If Appropriate):**

- **G6027**: Anoscopy, high resolution (HRA) (with magnification and chemical agent enhancement); diagnostic, including collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing when performed.
- **G2078**: Anoscopy, high resolution (HRA) (with magnification and chemical agent enhancement); with biopsy(ies).

**ICD-9 codes covered if selection criteria are met:**

- **078.11**: Condyloma acuminatum [anogenital warts]
- **154.2 - 154.3**: Malignant neoplasm of anal canal and anus, unspecified
- **154.8**: Malignant neoplasm of specified site(s) of rectum/anus
- **197.5**: Secondary malignant neoplasm of large intestine and rectum
- **211.4**: Benign neoplasm of rectum and anal canal
- **230.5 - 230.6**: Carcinoma in situ anal canal and anus, unspecified
- **569.0**: Anal and rectal polyp
- **569.3**: Hemorrhage of rectum and anus
- **569.41**: Ulcer of rectum and anus
- **569.44**: Dysplasia of anus [mild, moderate, or NOS, AIN I and II]
- **569.49**: Other specified disorders of rectum and anus
- **622.10-622.12**: Dysplasia of cervix
- **623.0**: Dysplasia of vagina
- **796.70 - 796.79**: Abnormal cytologic smear of anus and anal HPV
- **V58.65**: Long-term (current) use of steroids
- **V42.0-V42.9**: Organ or tissue replaced by transplant

**ICD-10 codes covered if selection criteria are met:**

- **A63.0**: Anogenital (venereal) warts
- **C20-C21.8**: Malignant neoplasm of rectum, anal canal, and anus
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C78.5 Secondary malignant neoplasm of large intestine and rectum
D12.8-D12.9 Benign neoplasm of rectum, anus, and anal canal
D01.3 Carcinoma in situ of anus and anal canal
K62.0-K62.1 Anal and rectal polyp
K62.5 Hemorrhage of anus and rectum
K62.6 Ulcer of anus and rectum
K62.81 Anal Sphincter tear (healed) (nontraumatic) (old)
K62.82 Dysplasia of anus
K62.89 Other specified diseases of anus and rectum
N87.0-N87.9 Dysplasia of cervix
N89.0-N89.3 Dysplasia of vagina
R85.6-R85.619 Abnormal cytologic smear of anus
R85.81-R85.82 Anal high-low risk human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA test positive
Z79.51-Z79.52 Long-term use (current) of steroids
Z94.0-Z94.9 Organ or tissue replaced by transplant

References

2. Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local coverage article: Coverage for High Resolution Anoscopy A53408. (Palmetto GBA): Revision Effective Date October 1, 2015. https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=53408&ver=6&ContrId=379&ContrVer=1&CoverageSelection=Both&ArticleType=All&PolicyType=Final&s=All&KeyWord=anoscopy&KeyWordLookUp=Title&KeyWordSearchType=And&bc=gAAAAABAAAAAAA%3d%3d&
http://www.scielo.br/pdf/ag/v48n2/a10v48n2.pdf

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