



Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) for Treatment of Esophageal Achalasia

Last Revision/Review Date: May 15, 2019

P&P # C.5.32

Policy

The Medical Management Department reviews referral requests for authorization of POEM procedures for treatment of Achalasia.

This Medical Policy does not constitute medical advice. When deciding coverage, the enrollee's specific plan document must be referenced. The terms of an enrollee's plan document (Certificate of Coverage (COC) or Summary Plan Description (SPD)) may differ from this Medical Policy. In the event of a conflict, the enrollee's specific benefit plan document supersedes this Medical Policy. All reviewers must first identify enrollee eligibility, any federal or state regulatory requirements, and the plan benefit coverage prior to use of this Medical Policy. Other Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines may apply. Quartz reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary.

Procedure

I. POEM Procedure for Treatment of Esophageal Achalasia

A. Documentation Required:

In order to facilitate the authorization process, referral requests must include the following:

1. Documentation of patient history of dysphagia to solids and liquids
2. Documentation of achalasia confirmed by esophageal manometry.

B. Criteria for Medical Necessity

Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) is considered medically necessary for patients 18 years of age and older who are otherwise considered candidates for this surgery if **Either** of the following criteria are met:

1. Manometry proven symptomatic primary achalasia
2. Failure of previous treatment of achalasia (e.g., Botox injection, dilation, etc.)

C. Indications Considered Experimental, Investigational or not Medically Necessary:

(This list is not all inclusive)

1. Treatment of other esophageal motility disorders
2. Treatment of gastroparesis

CPT/ HCPCS CODES:

43499	Unlisted procedure, esophagus
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