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Medical policies in conjunction with other nationally recognized standards of care are used to make medical coverage decisions.

ENT and Respiratory Procedures Policy

Indication/Usage:

The following digestive procedures are generally performed in an outpatient setting when medical necessity criteria is met.

Medical Indications for Authorization Commercial and Medicare Members

- 1. Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with maxillary antrostomy; with removal of tissue from maxillary sinus CPT code 31267**

CPT code 31267 used when a provider performs a nasal/sinus endoscopy with maxillary antrostomy that includes the removal of tissue from the maxillary sinus. This code should be selected when the procedure involves the excision of diseased tissue, such as polyps or cysts, during the same session.

SummaCare considers endoscopic sinus surgery with removal of tissue medically necessary with one of the following indications:

- A. Suspected tumor seen on imaging, physical examination;
- B. Nasal polyp or cyst documented by CT imaging
- C. Chronic rhino-sinusitis lasting longer than 12 continuous weeks with nasal polyps with CT confirmation and who have failed conservative management with all of the following below
 - 6 weeks of saline irrigations
 - 5 to 7 days of antibiotics if infection is suspected
 - 6 weeks of intra-nasal corticosteroids

2. Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with dilation of maxillary sinus ostium (e.g., balloon dilation), transnasal or via canine fossa CPT code 31295

CPT code 31295 I used for chronic sinusitis, nasal obstruction, or other conditions that necessitate surgical intervention to improve sinus drainage. The procedure is appropriate when conservative treatments, such as medications or nasal sprays, have failed to alleviate symptoms. It is important to note that this code should not be used for routine diagnostic endoscopies without dilation or for procedures involving other sinuses

SummaCare considers nasal endoscopy with dilatation medically necessary when **all** the following criteria has been met.

- A. Treatment is for uncomplicated sinusitis with either of the following:
 - Acute sinusitis with four or more documented episodes of sinusitis in one year
 - Chronic sinusitis lasting more than 12 weeks
- B. Failure of conservative management with **all** of the following:
 - Antibiotic therapy
 - Inhaled steroids
 - Nasal lavage
 - Allergy testing for members with symptoms constant with allergic rhinitis and have not responded to environmental controls and pharmacotherapy
- C. Abnormal findings from diagnostic work-up, as indicated by **any one** of the following:
 - Computed tomography (CT) findings suggestive of obstruction or infection
 - Nasal endoscopy findings

The following procedures above are to be performed in an ambulatory surgery center

unless otherwise specified when medical necessity criteria is met. The member's network benefits will need to be reviewed and applied.

3. Bronchoscopy, rigid or flexible, including fluoroscopic guidance, when performed; with endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) guided transtracheal and/or transbronchial sampling one or two mediastinal and/or hilar lymph node stations or structures CPT code 31652

CPT code 31652 is used for evaluation of members with suspected lung cancer or other significant pulmonary conditions. Samples taken from one or two lymph node stations. The procedure allows for direct visualization of the airways and surrounding structures, enabling the provider to identify abnormalities and obtain tissue samples for histopathological examination. This is critical for accurate diagnosis, staging of cancer, and determining appropriate treatment options.

SummaCare considers bronchoscopy under ultrasound with sampling medically necessary for staging of lung cancer or pulmonary lesion is required for diagnosis.

There are currently no NCD or LCD per CMS

Limitations

CPT codes used for any other indication not listed the above criteria is considered experimental/investigational because the safety and/or effectiveness of those service has not be established

Coverage Decisions

Coverage decisions made per CMS, Hayes and industry standards research

Plans Covered By This Policy

Commercial and Medicare

Self-funded Commercial groups refer to plan document for coverage

Sources Reviewed

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[How To Use CPT Code 31295 - Updated 2025 - Coding Ahead](#)

[How To Use CPT Code 31267 - Updated 2025 - Coding Ahead](#)

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