SCOPE:
The purpose of this policy is to define the process utilized for medical necessity review for use of Wireless Capsule Endoscopy of the Gastrointestinal (GI) tract, which photographs during normal GI swallowing & GI Peristalsis the small bowel. The imaging is then transmitted to an external wireless receiver worn by the patient which is then digitally downloaded. The capsule is about the size of a large vitamin pill.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS:
- **Gastrointestinal (GI)**
- **Lower Gastrointestinal (LGI)**
- **Upper Gastrointestinal (UGI)**
- **Wireless Capsule Endoscopy (WCE)**

POLICY:
Medical necessity is established under the following circumstances, if small bowel disease is possible:
1. Unexplained GI bleeding after normal conventional UGI & LGI endoscopy.
2. Unexplained iron deficiency anemia after normal conventional UGI & LGI endoscopy.
3. Suspicion of Crohns Disease- either initially or post therapy.
4. History of familial hereditary GI polyposis in patients > 35 years old.
5. Refractory malabsorption syndromes (celiac disease).

No medical necessity is established for investigation of any other part of the GI tract. Also, evaluation of abdominal pain is NOT an indication for WCE.
# HEALTH PLAN POLICY

**Policy Title:** Wireless Capsule Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy  
**Policy Number:** MUM35  
**Revision:** B

## REFERENCES:
- ASGE Technology Committee – Gastrointestinal Endoscopy 2013: 78: 805-815

## RELATED DOCUMENTS:
None

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Nancy Horstmann  
Chief Executive Officer Health Plans

David Engleking, M.D.  
Medical Director

## REVISION HISTORY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of Change</th>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New</td>
<td>02/22/2018</td>
<td>Initial release.</td>
<td>Executive Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>04/24/2019</td>
<td>Annual review. Removed Medicaid and CHIP from lines of business.</td>
<td>Executive Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>05/15/2020</td>
<td>Annual review. No change to policy content.</td>
<td>Executive Leadership</td>
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