



151 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06156

July 2006

Dear Physician or Practice Manager:

Update on Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) for GI procedures

A few months ago, we notified you that beginning September 1, 2006, we were modifying our payment practices for MAC services administered during an upper or lower gastrointestinal endoscopy procedure.

After further review and careful consideration of the comments we received from network anesthesiologists and gastroenterologists, as well as key medical societies, we will not be implementing this reimbursement policy on September 1.

However, we are reviewing the medical necessity and appropriateness of MAC for endoscopic procedures

We fully understand the impact our policy and payment decisions have on your practice. For that reason and because the use of monitored anesthesia may be medically necessary and appropriate in certain circumstances, we are conducting a comprehensive review of the positions of relevant medical societies and expert authorities to determine those instances when MAC is considered medically necessary and appropriate for endoscopic procedures.

If we determine that it is appropriate to develop a Clinical Policy Bulletin to address the use of MAC for endoscopic procedures, we will notify you and provide you with the Clinical Policy Bulletin.

In developing clinical policies, we review currently available clinical information, including studies published in the peer-reviewed medical literature, and evidence-based guidelines of public health and health research agencies and leading national health professional organizations.

How to reach us

As always, thank you for your continued participation in the Aetna network. Our Provider Service Center representatives are available at:

- 1-800-624-0756 for calls related to HMO-based benefits plans.
- 1-888-MD AETNA (1-888-632-3862) for calls related to indemnity and PPO-based benefits plans.

Sincerely,

James D. Cross, M.D.
Head of Medical Policy Administration

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