

**ND**

Medical Policies

**Print**

Policy Number: E-89

Policy Name: Transanal Irrigation

Policy Type: Medical

Policy Subtype: Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

Effective Date: 09-15-2025

End Date: 11-02-2025

Description

Transanal irrigation (TAI) is intended to instill water into the colon through a rectal catheter, which incorporates an inflatable balloon, inserted into the rectum to promote evacuation of stool in the lower colon.

Neurogenic bowel dysfunction is the inability to control defecation due to a nervous system problem resulting in fecal incontinence or constipation. It is common in people with spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis or spina bifida.

Policy Application

All claims submitted for this policy will be processed according to the policy effective date and associated revision effective dates in effect on the date of service.

Criteria

Coverage is subject to the specific terms of the member's benefit plan.

Transanal irrigation (TAI) with a manual pump enema system that is U.S Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) approved may be considered medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

- Individual is greater than or equal to two (2) years of age; **and**
- Individual has chronic neurogenic bowel dysfunction with fecal incontinence, chronic constipation and/or time-consuming bowel management procedures; **and**
- Individual has failed conservative medical management (dietary modifications, bowel training, laxatives, or constipation medications) or is contraindicated.

Procedure Codes

A4453	A4459
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Professional Statements and Societal Positions Guidelines

Not Applicable

Diagnosis Codes

Not Applicable

CURRENT CODING

HCPCS:

A4453	Rec cath any transanal, each	Commercial
A4459	Transanal irrigation, any	Commercial
A4453	Rec cath any transanal, each	Medicaid Expansion
A4459	Transanal irrigation, any	Medicaid Expansion

References

1. Lallemand-Dudek P, Cretolle C, Hameury F, et al. Multicentric evaluation of the adherence to Peristeen® transanal irrigation system in children. *Ann Phys Rehabil Med.* 2020;63(1):28-32.

2. Ethans K, Smith K, Khandelwal A, Nankar M, Shea J, Casey A. Transanal irrigation bowel routine for people with Cauda Equina Syndrome. *J Spinal Cord Med.* 2024;47(2):263-269.

3. Patel S, Hopson P, Bornstein J, Safder S. Impact of transanal irrigation device in the management of children with fecal incontinence and constipation. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2020;71(3):292-297.

4. Xavier TS, Duarte LMR, Martins G. Transanal irrigation to manage neurogenic bowel in the pediatric population with spina bifida: A scoping review. *J Pediatr (Rio J).* 2023;99(4):322-334.

5. Mekhael M, Kristensen HØ, Larsen HM, et al. Transanal irrigation for neurogenic bowel disease, low anterior resection syndrome, faecal incontinence and chronic constipation: A systematic review. *J Clin Med.* 2021;10(4):753.

6. Baaleman DF, Wegh CAM, Hoogveld MTA, Benninga MA, Koppen IJN. Transanal irrigation in children: Treatment success, quality of life, adherence, patient experience, and independence. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2022;75(2):166-172.

7. Tamvakeras P, Horrobin C, Chang J, Chapman M. Long-term outcomes of transanal irrigation for bowel dysfunction. *Cureus*. 2023;15(7):e42507.

ND Committee Review

Internal Medical Policy committee 5/14/2024 New Policy - *Effective July 1, 2024*

- *Adopt* policy

Internal Medical Policy Committee 5-13-2025 Annual review-no changes in criteria *Effective July 7, 2025*

Disclaimer

Current medical policy is to be used in determining a Member's contract benefits on the date that services are rendered. Contract language, including definitions and specific inclusions/exclusions, as well as state and federal law, must be considered in determining eligibility for coverage. Members must consult their applicable benefit plans or contact a Member Services representative for specific coverage information. Likewise, medical policy, which addresses the issue(s) in any specific case, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and the Company reserves the right to review and update medical policy periodically.