



Medical Policies

 **Print**

Policy Number:	S-269		
Policy Name:	Per-Oral Endoscopic Myotomy		
Policy Type:	Medical	Policy Subtype:	Surgery
Effective Date:	09-15-2025	End Date:	11-02-2025

Description

Per-oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) is an endoscopic procedure used to treat swallowing disorders, most commonly achalasia. POEM is a procedure that uses endoscopic technology to guide an endoscope through the esophagus, creating a submucosal tunnel in the lower part of the esophagus to reach the inner circular muscle bundles of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES) to perform myotomy. This procedure is intended to reduce the total number of incisions needed and thus the overall invasiveness of surgery.

Gastric per-oral endoscopic myotomy (G-POEM) is a similar procedure with the exception that it myotomizes the pylorus rather than LES.

Medically refractory gastroparesis has been defined as 'persistent symptoms in the context of objectively confirmed gastric emptying delay, despite the use of dietary adjustment and metoclopramide as a first-line therapeutic agent.

The Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index (GCSI) is used to assess the severity of gastroparesis and uses a scale ranging from 0 (none) to 5 (very severe), with a 2-week recall period to rate the severity of nine (9) important symptoms and signs. The GCSI is divided into the following three (3) subscales: nausea and vomiting (three (3) items), postprandial fullness and early satiety (four (4) items), and bloating (two (2) items).

Policy Application

All claims submitted under this policy's section will be processed according to the policy effective date and associated revision effective dates in effect on the date of processing, regardless of service date; **and/or**

All claims submitted under this policy's section 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.

POEM for the treatment of achalasia is considered medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

- The individual is aged 18 years or older; **and**
- The individual has been diagnosed with achalasia; **and**
- The diagnosis of achalasia has been confirmed by a positive esophageal manometry, esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) and barium swallow.

POEM not meeting the criteria as indicated in this policy is considered experimental/investigational and therefore, non-covered because the safety and/or effectiveness of this service cannot be established by the available published peer reviewed literature.

Procedure Code

43497

Gastric POEM (G-POEM), also called peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy, is considered medically necessary for individuals with medically refractory gastroparesis when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

- The individual is aged 18 years or older; **and**
- The individual has moderate to severe symptoms including nausea and vomiting as the dominant symptoms on the gastroparesis cardinal symptom index (GCSI); **and**
- The individual has undergone an esophagogastroduodenoscopy to confirm that there is no mechanical gastric outlet obstruction; **and**
- The individual has undergone a solid-phase gastric emptying scan (GES) confirming delayed gastric emptying with retention greater than (>) 20 percent at four (4) hours

G-POEM not meeting the criteria as indicated in this policy is considered experimental/investigational and therefore, non-covered because the safety and/or effectiveness of this service cannot be established by the available published peer reviewed literature.

Procedure Code

43999

Diagnosis Codes

Covered Diagnosis Code for Procedure Code 43497

K22.0

Covered Diagnosis Code for Procedure Code 43999

K31.84

CURRENT CODING

CPT:

43497	TRANSORAL LOWER ESOPHAGEAL MYOTOMY	Medicaid Expansion
43999	UNLISTED PROCEDURE STOMACH	Medicaid Expansion
43497	TRANSORAL LOWER ESOPHAGEAL MYOTOMY	Commercial
43999	UNLISTED PROCEDURE STOMACH	Commercial

References

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ND Committee Review

Internal Medical Policy Committee 11-19-2020 New Policy

Internal Medical Policy Committee 11-23-2021 Coding update- **Effective January 01, 2022**

- **Removed** procedure code 43499; and
- **Added** procedure code 43497

Internal Medical Policy Committee 1-20-2022 Revision

- ***Changed*** Title; and
- ***Updated*** with clarifying language.

Internal Medical Policy Committee 1-26-2023 Annual Review-no changes in criteria

Internal Medical Policy Committee 1-16-2024 Revision - **Effective March 04, 2024**

- ***Updated*** References

Internal Medical Policy Committee 5-14-2024 Revision - **Effective July 01, 2024**

- **Added** criteria to POEM for treatment of achalasia and Gastric POEM; and
- **Added** procedure code 43499 with diagnosis code K31.84; and
- **Added** Professional statement; and
- **Added** Policy Application; and
- **Updated** references.

Internal Medical Policy Committee 9-17-2024 Coding update - **Effective November 04, 2024**

- **Removed** procedure code 43499; and
- **Added** procedure code 43999

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.