



CLINICAL MEDICAL POLICY

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Disclaimer

Gateway HealthSM's (Gateway) medical payment and prior-authorization policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding payment and coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Gateway HealthSM provides coverage under the medical-surgical benefits of the Company's Medicaid products for medically necessary services performed as an outpatient.

This policy is designed to address medical necessity guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness or condition. Each person's unique clinical circumstances warrants individual consideration, based upon review of applicable medical records.

(Current applicable PA HealthChoices Agreement Section V. Program Requirements, B. Prior Authorization of Services, 1. General Prior Authorization Requirements.)

DEFINITIONS:

Outpatient Surgery Setting – Outpatient surgery is performed in a variety of settings including but not limited to: Ambulatory surgical centers freestanding, ambulatory surgical settings within a hospital setting, or physician office.

PROCEDURES

1. This policy addresses the place of service only and does not address medical necessity of hysterectomy. Please refer to the Provider Manual for assistance with the process of determining medical necessity of the procedure.

2. When the services are not covered
Services identified as appropriate in the outpatient setting will not be reimbursed in the inpatient setting with or without a Gateway Health prior authorization.
3. A procedure is considered appropriate in the outpatient setting when:
 - The procedure requires the services of the recovery room
 - Post-operative care can be managed at home

Note that if services require a higher level setting, supporting medical documentation must be provided at the time of the request.

4. Post-payment Audit Statement
The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by Gateway HealthSM at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.
5. Place of Service for procedure codes identified below is appropriate for outpatient.

Hysterectomy

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has identified the preferred method for hysterectomies to be vaginal. Per ACOG, "evidence demonstrates that, in general, vaginal hysterectomy is associated with better outcomes and fewer complications than laparoscopic or abdominal hysterectomies."

Place of Service

Outpatient Setting

- More hysterectomy procedures are being conducted in the outpatient setting
- Lower patient cost
- Benefits to infection incidence and length of stay

Minimally Invasive Techniques

- In hysterectomies, the use of minimally invasive techniques is on the rise within the outpatient setting
- Laparoscopic hysterectomies report a higher cost compared to open or vaginal procedures

Up To Date:

Patients who have laparoscopic hysterectomy without perioperative complication or comorbidities can be discharged home on the same day, or stay in the hospital overnight, typically one night. Observational studies have consistently found the same day discharge is safe and less costly and experience fewer postoperative complications.

As reported by Guta (2011), nineteen laparoscopically assisted vaginal hysterectomies and 17 total laparoscopic hysterectomies were performed. The 2 groups were similar in age, BMI, uterine weight, and surgical time. Comparing the 2 groups, there were no statistically significant differences in pain throughout any time points of the study.

The author concluded there were no statistically significant differences in pain during the postoperative period between the 2 groups. Outpatient hysterectomy is a safe procedure that may improve patient satisfaction surgically and financially, and either approach is well tolerated by patients.

Whiteman reported that gynecologic disorders accounted for 7% of all inpatient hospitalizations among reproductive age women that uterine leiomyoma was the most common diagnosis, and that 80% of women who were hospitalized

for uterine leiomyoma, menstrual disorders, or endometriosis underwent hysterectomy. Overall costs and Medicare coinsurance rates are lower in ASCs.

An observational study on a comparison of postoperative outcomes in outpatient and inpatient laparoscopic hysterectomy procedures reported (Khavanin 2013) that overall morbidity was low in both the inpatient and outpatient populations. It was noted that there were significantly fewer 30-day complications observed in the outpatient group compared to the inpatient surgery group. The outpatient group experienced fewer wound complications, lower medical complications and deep vein thrombosis.

Cholecystectomy

One of the most common abdominal surgical procedures is cholecystectomy. In the United States, 90% are performed laparoscopically. Given the success with this operative approach, laparoscopic cholecystectomy is considered the gold standard for the surgical treatment of gallstone disease.

In 1999, Lillemoe, et al. reported on a retrospective analysis of 130 consecutive patients that underwent laparoscopic cholecystectomy in an outpatient surgery unit. A total of eight patients were admitted to the hospital following postanesthesia care, six of these eight patients were discharged on the first post-operative day. The authors concluded that laparoscopic cholecystectomy can be performed as true outpatients within hours of completion of the procedure. Less than 10% of patients will fail this protocol and another 5% may require hospitalization after returning to their homes.

Patients undergoing uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy for symptomatic cholelithiasis may be discharged home on the day of surgery (Tenconi, et al. 2008). Control of postoperative pain, nausea, and vomiting are important to successful same day discharge, and admission rates despite planned same day discharge are reported to be 1-39%; patients older than age 50 may be at increased risk for admission (Kasem, et al. 2006). Readmission rates range from 0-8%; common causes for readmission after same day discharge include pain, intra-abdominal fluid collections, bile leaks, and bile duct stones (Sherigar, et al. 2006). Time to discharge after surgery for patients with acute cholecystitis, bile duct stones, or in patients converted to an open procedure should be determined on an individual basis.

Per the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) in 2010, the length of stay guidelines for laparoscopic cholecystectomy includes:

- Patients undergoing uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy for symptomatic cholelithiasis may be discharged home on the day of surgery; control of postoperative pain, nausea, and vomiting are important to successful same day discharge. (Level II, Grade B)
- Patients older than age 50 may be at increased risk for admission. (Level II, Grade B).
- Time to discharge after surgery for patients with acute cholecystitis, bile duct stones, or in patients converted to an open procedure should be determined on an individual basis. (Level III, Grade A).

In 2013, Vaughn et al. performed a review of randomised clinical trials comparing day-surgery versus overnight stay surgery for laparoscopic cholecystectomy. It was reported that day-surgery seems to be as safe as overnight stay surgery. There was no improvement in any patient-oriented outcomes such as a return to normal activity or earlier return to work. The authors stated that more randomised clinical trials are needed to assess the impact of day-surgery laparoscopic cholecystectomy on the quality of life and other patient outcomes.

Vaughan (2013) reported that most otherwise healthy, reliable patients with good home support can leave the hospital six hours after surgery. Cochrane reviews have found no significant differences for important clinical outcomes for patients discharged the same day versus admitted overnight following laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

AUTHORIZATION and CODING REQUIREMENTS:

Procedure Codes

Hysterectomy

CPT Code	Description
58260	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58262	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal tube(s), and or ovary(s)
58263	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less with removal of tubes and/or ovary(s) with repair of enterocele
58270	Vaginal hysterectomy w/colp-urethrocystopexy (Marshall-Marchetti-Krantz type, Pereya type) with or without endoscopic control w/repair of enterocele
58290	Vaginal hysterectomy with uterus greater than 250 g
58291	Vaginal hysterectomy with uterus greater than 250g; with removal of tube(s) or ovary(s)
58292	Vaginal hysterectomy with uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) or ovary(s), with repair of enterocele
58294	Vaginal hysterectomy for uterus greater than 250 g with repair of enterocele
58541	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58542	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less, with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58543	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g
58544	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58550	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58552	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58553	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g
58554	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58570	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy , for uterus greater than 250 g or less
58571	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy , for uterus greater than 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58572	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g
58573	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)

Cholecystectomy

CPT Code	Description
47562	Laparoscopy, surgical; cholecystectomy
47563	Laparoscopy, cholecystectomy with cholangiography
47564	Laparoscopy, cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct

Policy Source(s)

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