

## AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

National Imaging Associates, Inc.*	
Clinical guidelines CT (VIRTUAL) COLONOSCOPY	Original Date: July 2007
CPT Codes: 74261, 74262	Last Revised Date: April 2021
Guideline Number: NIA_CG_033-1	Implementation Date: January 2022

### INDICATIONS FOR CT COLONOGRAPHY (VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY)

**For diagnostic (symptomatic patient) evaluation when conventional colonoscopy is contraindicated or could not be completed:**

(ACR, 2018; NCCN, 2019; Rex, 2017)

- Patient had failed or incomplete colonoscopy
- Patient has an obstructive colorectal cancer
- When colonoscopy is medically contraindicated or not possible (e.g., patient is unable to undergo sedation or has medical conditions such as a recent myocardial infarction, recent colonic surgery, a bleeding disorder, or severe lung and/or heart disease)
- For a 3 year ~~follow~~-~~follow~~-up when at least one polyp of 6 mm in diameter detected at CTC if patient does not undergo polypectomy (or is unwilling or unable to undergo colonoscopy)

### BACKGROUND

Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, also referred to as virtual colonoscopy, is used to examine the colon and rectum to detect abnormalities such as polyps and cancer. Polyps may be adenomatous (which have the potential to become malignant) or completely benign.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most common cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death in the United States. Symptoms include blood in the stool, change in bowel habit, abdominal pain, and unexplained weight loss.

Relative contraindications to CTC include: symptomatic acute colitis, acute diarrhea, recent acute diverticulitis, recent colorectal surgery, symptomatic colon-containing abdominal wall hernia, **and** small bowel obstruction. It is not indicated in routine follow-up of inflammatory bowel disease, hereditary polyposis or ~~non-polyposis~~non-polyposis cancer syndromes,

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evaluation of anal disease, or the pregnant or potentially pregnant patient. For all ~~high-risk~~high-risk individuals, colonoscopy is preferred.

In addition to its use as a diagnostic test in symptomatic patients, CT colonography may be used in asymptomatic patients with a high risk of developing colorectal cancer. Conventional colonoscopy is the main methods currently used for examining the colon.

## OVERVIEW

**Request for a follow-up study** - A follow-up study may be needed to help evaluate a patient's progress after treatment, procedure, intervention, or surgery. Documentation requires a medical reason that clearly indicates why additional imaging is needed for the type and area(s) requested.

## POLICY HISTORY

Date	Summary
April 2021	• <u>Updated background information and references only</u>
<u>May 2020</u>	• <u>Updated indications for diagnostic study</u>
<u>April 2019</u>	• <u>Corrected terminology to “CT Colonography” and “Virtual Colonoscopy”</u> • <u>Updated references</u>

~~Review Date: April 2019~~

~~Review Summary:~~

- ~~• Corrected terminology to “CT Colonography” and “Virtual Colonoscopy”~~
- ~~• Updated references~~

~~Review Date: May 2020~~

~~Review Summary:~~

- ~~• Updated indications for diagnostic study~~

## REFERENCES

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Reviewed / Approved by M. Atif Khalid MD M. Atif Khalid, M.D., Medical Director, Radiology  
Reviewed / Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ mittee

## GENERAL INFORMATION

It is an expectation that all patients receive care/services from a licensed clinician. All appropriate supporting documentation, including recent pertinent office visit notes, laboratory data, and results of any special testing must be provided. If applicable: All prior relevant imaging results and the reason that alternative imaging cannot be performed must be included in the documentation submitted.

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