

Defecography

sMed# 01066

What is it?

CPT Codes – 74270

Defecography sometimes referred to as evacuation proctography is a radiological study of the defecation process using fluoroscopic techniques. Contrast material, usually barium is placed in the rectum followed by fluoroscopy of the anorectal activity during squeezing, relaxation and evacuation. Defecography has been proposed as a diagnostic test of constipation to evaluate lower bowel disorders that are not evident by direct visualization.

At present, no test alone provides a pathophysiological basis for constipation. Studies are required to examine the clinical utility of tests for constipation. However, there is some evidence that defecography can provide useful information as to anatomical and functional changes of the anorectum. The American Gastroenterological Association determined that patients who have constipation suspected to be the result of inappropriate contraction of the puborectalis muscle, enterocele or anterior rectocele may benefit from defecography.

Criteria

Defecography **is** considered **medically necessary** in members with constipation (564.00 – 564.09) who have any of the following conditions suspected to cause impaired defecation:

- Inappropriate contraction of the puborectalis muscle; **or**,
 - Enterocele (such as after hysterectomy); **or**,
 - Anterior rectocele (such as history of manipulation of rectal wall per vagina).
- Defecography **is** considered **experimental and investigational** for routine evaluation of constipation and for all other indications.

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