

Medical Policy Updates

For criteria related to a medical decision, call Care Management at 800-722-4714, option 3. Medical policies are available at premera.com/ak/provider under Quick Links, Medical Policies.

Medical Necessity Review of FESS for Rhinosinusitis and Nasal Polyposis

New Policy. Effective Jan. 1, 2016, the plan will conduct medical necessity review of functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS) for two indications:

- Recurrent acute rhinosinusitis
- Chronic rhinosinusitis with and without polyposis

Please review medical policy 7.01.559—Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS) for Rhinosinusitis and Nasal Polyposis on the provider website for all of the medical necessity criteria and policy guidelines. A pre-service review is strongly recommended. If a pre-service review is not obtained, we will conduct a retrospective medical necessity review. Services that are not medically necessary will not be covered.

Premera medical policies are guidelines used to evaluate the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. We adopt policies after careful review of published, peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines, and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, we reserve the right to review and update our policies as appropriate.

When there are differences between the member's contract and medical policy, the member's contract prevails. The existence of a medical policy regarding a specific service or treatment does not guarantee that the member's contract covers that service.

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