

MSCommuniqué

Communicating the policy and directives of the Medical Services Commission of British Columbia

Volume 7, Number 1

March 8, 2002

CMQ02-001

**Guideline for
Antinuclear Antibody
(ANA) Testing for
Connective Tissue Disease**

Minute of Commission 01-024

Approval of Guideline
Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) Testing for Connective Tissue

Pursuant to Section 5(1)(c), 24(1), and Section 37(5) of the *Medicare Protection Act*, the following guideline will apply with respect to the *Medical Services Commission Payment Schedule*:

Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) Testing for Connective Tissue

This guideline will be used in the determination of benefits payable under the *Medicare Protection Act*.

Effective: July 1, 2001

CMQ02-002

**Revised Guideline for
Follow-up of Patients
after Curative Resection
of Colorectal Cancer**

Minute of Commission 02-001

Approval of Guideline for:
Follow-up of Patients after Curative Resection of Colorectal Cancer

Pursuant to Section 5(1)(c), 24(1), and Section 37(5) of the *Medicare Protection Act*, the following guideline will apply with respect to the *Medical Services Commission Payment Schedule*:

Follow-up of Patients after Curative Resection of Colorectal Cancer

This guideline supersedes the previous *Protocol for Follow-up of Patients after Curative resection of Colorectal Cancer* that was effective December 1, 1998.

This guideline will be used in the determination of benefits payable under the *Medicare Protection Act*.

Effective: March 1, 2002

Members:

Janet E. McGregor (A/Chair)
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Guidelines and protocols can be obtained by contacting MSP at 250 952-1347 or by faxing 250 952-1417. Guidelines and protocols are also posted on the MSP web site: <http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/msp>. Please e-mail your questions or comments to guidelines.protocols@moh.hnet.bc.ca.

CMQ02-003

**Restriction on Coverage
of Routine Eye
Examination**

As of November 19, 2001, routine eye examinations are no longer a benefit for individuals ages 19 – 64 (see Communiqué Volume 6, Number 4, November 27, 2001).

Physicians are reminded that eye examinations for refractive corrections are considered “routine” and, therefore, are not a benefit under MSP. A direct request to an optometrist or ophthalmologist for an eye examination on behalf of a patient (i.e. referral) is appropriate only if, in the practitioner’s judgment and based on clinical evidence, there is a medical necessity for the examination. Refractive change does not meet the MSP criteria for payment, and patients should be advised to contact their optometrist or ophthalmologist directly to request an eye exam.

Exceptional circumstances may be given independent consideration when supported by documentation.

For a list of specific diagnostic codes associated with medically required eye examinations, go to MSP’s web site at <http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/msp> or call MSP Claims Information-by-Fax line at 250 356-9605 (press 3, press 3 again).