

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

# GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

“This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Nebraska Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.”

Pursuant to  
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-901.03

**To:** Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care Plans  
**From:** Drew Gonshorowski, Director *DG*  
**Date:** May 1, 2026  
**Re:** Coverage of CPT Code 31627 Navigational Bronchoscopy

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This health plan advisory is being issued to notify the Heritage Health plans that Nebraska Medicaid will provide coverage for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 31627 Navigational Bronchoscopy for eligible beneficiaries when medically necessary, **effective July 1, 2026**.

Navigational Bronchoscopy is indicated when diagnosing and treating peripheral pulmonary nodules that are inaccessible with standard methods, complicated cases involving central airway obstruction and placing markers for radiation therapy. It is particularly useful for patients at high risk for more invasive procedures like transthoracic needle aspiration.

Contraindications are similar to those for standard bronchoscopy and include severe hemodynamic instability, severe hypoxemia and uncooperative patients. Other contraindications involve recent myocardial infarction, significant bleeding disorders, and certain severe respiratory issues such as uncontrolled asthma or severe carbon dioxide retention.

Navigational bronchoscopy may be considered medically necessary for a peripheral pulmonary nodule in either of the following situations:

- The peripheral pulmonary nodule requires a pathologic diagnosis and is not accessible by standard bronchoscopy methods or by transthoracic biopsy approach; or
- For the pre-treatment placement of fiducial markers within lung tumor(s).

All other indications are considered not medically necessary.

CPT 31627 can be billed as an add on code to the following primary bronchoscopy codes: 31615, 31622, 31623, 31624, 31625, 31626, 31628, 31629, 31630, 31631, 31635, 31636, 31638, 31640, 31641, 31643.

## Resources

If you have questions regarding this advisory, please submit via email at: [DHHS.MLTCphysicalhealth@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MLTCphysicalhealth@nebraska.gov). Health plans should also copy their contract manager.

Health plan advisories, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Heritage-Health-Plan-Advisories.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new health plan advisories.