

Eligibility criteria for endoscopy services (gastroscopy, colonoscopy, and flexible sigmoidoscopy) under general anaesthesia or deep sedation – effective from 1 April 2026

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of endoscopy services (gastroscopy, colonoscopy, and flexible sigmoidoscopy) under general anaesthesia (GA) or deep sedation under a member's policy when the primary eligibility criteria for the procedure has been met (if applicable, such as [colonoscopy \(in adults\)](#)) and then at least **one** of the below criteria are met for that member.

1. Medical or surgical indication requiring GA or deep sedation when at least **one** of the following is present.
 - The member has been recommended for GA or deep sedation due to a documented medical condition that poses undue risk if the procedure were performed under light sedation (eg fentanyl and midazolam).
 - The member has a surgical indication related to the endoscopy service that poses undue risk if the procedure were performed under light sedation.
 - The member is undergoing another eligible surgical procedure that requires GA or deep sedation, and the endoscopy service is being performed during the same operation.
2. Patient-specific factors preventing safe management with light sedation.
 - The member presents with diagnosed and clinically documented behavioural, developmental, or psychological factors that significantly impair their ability to safely undergo the procedure under light sedation.

Eligible patient factors include:

- Documented intellectual or developmental disabilities: eg autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome.
- Diagnosed neurological or psychiatric disorders: impairing cooperation or procedural tolerance, eg Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia. Confirmation from a treating clinician (eg GP, specialist, psychologist, or psychiatrist) may be requested where necessary to establish medical necessity.
- Children under the age of 16.
- Non-verbal patients: where communication barriers preclude safe treatment under light or moderate sedation.

Supporting documentation must be retained for audit purposes, demonstrating compliance with the above criteria and, where applicable, providing justification that the comparative risk of light sedation is higher than that of a deep sedation.

Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.