

Eligibility criteria for balloon enteroscopy

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of balloon enteroscopy under a member's policy when at least **one** of the following criteria is met for that member.

1. For diagnostic purposes

Following a negative gastroscopy, colonoscopy or capsule endoscopy, at least **one** of the following must be present:

- iron deficiency anaemia
- recurrent obscure gastrointestinal bleeding (OGIB)
- suspected Crohn's disease where conventional diagnostic tests have failed to provide definitive evidence
- suspected small bowel tumour, or
- a gastroscopy, colonoscopy and/or capsule endoscopy has been contraindicated (ie may be harmful).

2. For surveillance purposes

Where symptoms are present following previous diagnosis of at least **one** of the following:

- coeliac disease
- familial polyposis syndrome.

3. For treatment purposes

When at least **one** of the following procedures is required:

- insertion of small bowel stent to treat obstruction
- dilatation of small bowel strictures
- haemostasis using one of:
 - argon plasma coagulation
 - injection of sclerosing agents, or
 - application of haemostasis clips
- endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) of polyps.

The cost of a balloon enteroscopy will **not** be reimbursed in any of the following circumstances:

- where there is a suspected perforation of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract
- for the treatment of oesophageal varices
- where a known clotting disorder exists.