



Western Australian Coding Rule

0721/04 Flexible (Fibreoptic) Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES)

Q.

What ACHI code should be assigned for Flexible (Fibreoptic) Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) performed by a speech pathologist?

A.

FEES:

- involves passing a nasendoscope transnasally to allow direct visualisation of the oropharynx, pharynx and larynx during swallowing.
- is used to evaluate swallowing function/safety and to guide the treatment of swallowing disorders (dysphagia).
- can be performed independently by a speech pathologist.

The ACHI Tabular List, Introduction, point 6. states:

... Interventions in ACHI are provider neutral. ... the same code is assigned for a specific intervention regardless of which health professional performs the intervention.

Therefore, assign a 'FEES endoscopy code' according to the furthest anatomical site reached, as indicated by the clinical documentation

Where FEES extends to the pharynx, assign 41764-02 [416] *Fibreoptic examination of pharynx* following the Index pathway:

Endoscopy, endoscopic

- pharynx 41764-02 [416]

Where FEES extends to the larynx, assign 41764-03 [520] *Fibreoptic laryngoscopy* following the Index pathway:

Endoscopy, endoscopic

-larynx

- - fibreoptic 41764-03 [520]

Note: ACS 0051 *Same-day endoscopy – diagnostic* should only be applied where FEES is the reason for a booked same-day admission.

DECISION

Where FEES is performed, determine the furthest anatomical site reached by the scope. Where FEES extends to the pharynx, assign 41764-02 [416] *Fibreoptic examination of pharynx*. Where FEES extends to the larynx, assign 41764-03 [520] *Fibreoptic laryngoscopy*

[Effective 1 July 2021, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 11th Ed.]