

Surgical facilities host more than 2 million colonoscopy procedures each year. Let's review how to code the six most common.

Decompression

Code 45378

For the relief of pressure in the colon. If performed with other colonoscopy procedures, the decompression would usually be considered to be a standard component of the other procedures and is not separately-billable.

Biopsies

Code 45380

For a biopsy or the removal of a polyp by cold biopsy forceps. The procedure involves no electric current running to the instrument and no cauterization. Bill the code once, regardless of the number of biopsies taken or polyps removed.

Control of Bleeding

Code 45382

The only time the control of bleeding is separately-billable is when it occurs at a different site (not where a lesion was removed, for example) and was not caused by the actions of the physician performing the procedure.

Ablation Technique

Code 45383

A polyp is removed using a laser or a heat probe.

Hot Biopsy Technique

Code 45384

A polyp is removed by being snipped off and cauterized at the same time with hot biopsy forceps or bipolar cautery.

Snare Technique

Code 45385

In this technique, the most common method of polyp removal, the jaws at the tip of the forceps (as opposed to a loop) surround the polyp stalk and sever its attachment to the colon mucosa.