



Case Study:

Overservicing (GI Endoscopy)

Case Details

- A 40+ year old patient was admitted due to severe acute epigastric pain and vomiting.
- The clinical history, which included significant alcohol consumption, as well as investigations (ultrasound abdomen and serum amylase and lipase) were consistent with a diagnosis of alcoholic pancreatitis.
- The patient underwent a gastroscopy and colonoscopy (coded as SF700I and SF704C respectively) on the fifth day of admission.

Claim Adjudication

- Case notes and supporting documents were requested from the doctor and medical institution.
- An independent Specialist Panel appointed by the MediShield Life Council reviewed the treatment and claim.

Panel Findings and Decision



The Panel found that components of the provided treatment claimed were deemed to be inappropriate:

1. **SF704C:** The clinical evidence and documentation showed that a diagnosis of alcoholic pancreatitis had already been made and that the patient did not have any symptoms referable to the colon. Additionally, clinical notes documented that the patient's pain was already improving the day before the procedure.

Key Learning Points

- Doctors should not perform procedures that are medically unnecessary, nor submit MediShield Life claims for such procedures.
- Additional documentation may be required as evidence for the Panel's deliberation on the appropriateness of the treatment and MediShield Life claim.

Summary of TOSP Codes

| TOSP Codes Submitted by Doctor | | | | Decision by Panel |
|--------------------------------|--------|--|-------|--|
| S/n | Code | Description | Table | |
| 1 | SF700I | Oesophagus/ Stomach, Upper GI endoscopy with polypectomy/ removal of foreign body/diathermy of bleeding lesions/ injection of varices/ removal of single polyp | 2C |  Appropriate |
| 2 | SF704C | Colon, Colonoscopy, Fibreoptic with removal of polyp (single or multiple less than 1 cm) | 3A |  Inappropriate |

- The total charges from inappropriate items or codes amounted to approximately \$3,600.
- Enforcement action will be taken against the doctor. Egregious or repeated non-compliances will lead to suspension or revocation of the doctor's MediSave and MediShield Life accreditation.