

CHAPTER 4
SECTION 6.1

BONE DENSITY STUDIES

Issue Date: November 4, 1996

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(b\)](#), [\(c\)](#), and [\(e\)\(14\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODES

76070, 76075, 78350, 78351

II. DESCRIPTION

A bone density study or bone densitometry is a procedure performed to assess bone mass or density, as determined by the concentration of calcified material. Bone density studies are used to evaluate diseases of bone and/or the response of bone diseases to treatment.

III. POLICY

A. Bone density studies may be covered for the diagnosis (patient must present with signs or symptoms of osteoporosis or be identified at high risk for age and gender) and monitoring of osteoporosis.

B. Bone density studies may be covered for the diagnosis (patient must present with signs or symptoms of osteopenia or be identified at high risk for age and gender) and monitoring of osteopenia.

C. Bone density studies are limited to one per year for the monitoring of osteoporosis and osteopenia.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Contractors are not required to search their files for previously denied claims for bone density studies performed for the diagnosis and monitoring of osteoporosis.

V. EXCLUSION

Bone density studies for the routine screening for osteoporosis.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE December 1, 1995.

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