

BONE DENSITY STUDIES

Issue Date: November 4, 1996

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

I. PROCEDURE CODES

76070 - 76078, 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 **are** covered for the diagnosis and monitoring of osteoporosis.

B. Bone density studies **are** covered for the diagnosis and monitoring of osteopenia.

C. Patients must present with signs and symptoms of bone disease or be considered at high-risk. The following are considered high-risk:

1. Women who are estrogen-deficient and at clinical risk for osteoporosis.
2. Individuals who have vertebral abnormalities.
3. Individuals receiving long-term glucocorticoid (steroid) therapy.
4. Individuals with primary hyperparathyroidism.
5. Individuals with positive family history of osteoporosis.

D. 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 **May 26, 1994.**

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