

CHAPTER 4
SECTION 2.2

COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHY

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

70450-70492, 71250-71270, 72125-72133, 72192-72194, 73200-73202, 73700-73702, 74150-74170, 76355-76380

II. DESCRIPTION

Computerized tomography records attenuated x-ray transmissions through the body and, utilizing a mini-computer, reconstructs a graphic image of a tomographic "slice" of a body area with marked anatomical detail.

III. POLICY

A. CT scans of the head and body are covered when all of the following criteria are met:

1. The patient is referred for the diagnostic procedure by a physician; and
2. The CT scan procedure is consistent with the preliminary diagnosis or symptoms;
and
3. Other noninvasive and less costly means of diagnosis have been attempted or are not appropriate; and
4. The CT scan equipment is licensed or registered by the appropriate state agency responsible for licensing or registering medical equipment which emits ionizing radiation;
and
5. The CT scan equipment is operated under the general supervision of a physician;
and
6. The results of the CT scan diagnostic procedure are interpreted by a physician.

B. Helical (spiral) CT scans, with or without contrast enhancement, are covered for the diagnosis of acute appendicitis.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

January 1, 1997, for helical CT scans.

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