

DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND

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I. CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODE RANGES

Diagnostic Ultrasound: 76506 - 76886

Ultrasonic Guidance: 76930 - 76965

Ultrasound Other: 76970 - 76999

II. DESCRIPTION

The visualization of deep structures of the body by recording the reflections (echoes) of pulses of ultrasonic waves direct into the tissues. Ultrasound is used for diagnostic and guidance purposes.

III. POLICY

A. Ultrasound procedures for diagnosis, guidance, and post-operative evaluation of surgical procedures may be cost-shared.

B. Maternity related ultrasound is limited to the diagnosis and management of conditions that constitute a high-risk pregnancy, as defined in [32 CFR 199.2](#) or which present a reasonable probability of neonatal complications.

C. Bone Density studies (CPT¹ procedure code 76977) are covered for:

1. The diagnosis and monitoring of osteoporosis.
2. For the diagnosis and monitoring of osteopenia.

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TRICARE POLICY MANUAL 6010.54-M, AUGUST 1, 2002

CHAPTER 5, SECTION 2.1

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3. Patients must present with signs and symptoms of bone disease or be considered at high-risk for developing osteoporosis. High-risk factors which have been identified as the standard of care by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) include:

a. Women who are estrogen-deficient and at clinical risk for osteoporosis. Naturally or surgically post-menopausal women who have not been on **long-term** hormone replacement therapy (HRT). However, **current** use of HRT does not preclude estrogen deficiency.

b. Individuals who have vertebral abnormalities.

c. Individuals receiving long-term glucocorticoid (steroid) therapy.

d. Individuals with primary hyperparathyroidism.

e. Individuals with positive family history of osteoporosis.

f. Any other high-risk factor identified by ACOG as the standard of care.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Ultrasound for routine screening for breast disease.

B. Ultrasound performed to determine sex of an unborn child.

C. Bone density studies for routine screening for osteoporosis.

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