

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

**CHAPTER:** 2  
**SECTION:** 34.1  
**TITLE:** NON-INVASIVE VASCULAR DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES: Extremity  
Arterial Studies (including digits)

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**AUTHORITY:** 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

**RELATED AUTHORITY:** 32 CFR 199.4 (b)(2)(vii) and (c)

**TRICARE POLICY MANUAL:** Chapter 1, Section 19.2

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### I. EFFECTIVE DATE

February 1, 1988 for procedure code 54240 (penile plethysmography).

### II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

93922-93931, 54240

### III. POLICY

Procedures within this code range may be cost shared when medically necessary and appropriate.

### IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. General. The information in this section is to assist in case specific benefit adjudication. Clinical indications listed are not all-inclusive. Procedures accomplished for non-listed indications, which are not otherwise excluded, may be cost shared when medically necessary and appropriate.

#### B. Clinical Indications.

1. Typical symptoms which support an extremity arterial study include: claudication; extremity pain; numbness, weakness, discomfort, tightness, fatigue or paresthesia aggravated by exercise and relieved by rest; extremity discoloration; extremity coldness or cold sensitivity; skin ulceration with poor healing; severe extremity pain at rest; gangrene; impotence; trauma; dizziness (subclavian steal).

2. Clinical indications a through c, apply to code 54240; clinical indications a through d apply to code 93922-93924.

a. Detect, localize and gauge severity of arterial obstruction.

- b. Categorize degree of arterial insufficiency.
- c. Evaluate cutaneous circulation.
- d. Preoperative evaluation for foot surgery with absence of palpable pedal pulse.

C. Technology. This information is provided as background for individuals involved in benefit adjudication. See LIMITATIONS and EXCLUSIONS sections for technology related benefit coverage policy.

- 1. Non-imaging
  - a. Doppler segmental limb pressures.
  - b. Continuous-wave Doppler analog wave form analysis.
  - c. Segmental plethysmography: water filled; strain gauge; air filled (PVR); impedance; venous occlusion
  - d. Stress testing: treadmill exercise; reactive hyperemia: planter flexion of foot against a load.
  - e. Pulsed wave Doppler wave form analysis (with or without spectral analysis).
  - f. Other tests to evaluate cutaneous circulation: skin thermometry; thermal conductance; thermal clearance; transcutaneous partial tension O<sub>2</sub> (pO<sub>2</sub>); laser Doppler; skin arterial blood pressure; cutaneous radio nuclide clearance (Xe-133); photo plethysmography.
- 2. Imaging
  - a. B-mode imaging (includes real-time analysis).
  - b. Duplex scanner (utilizes B-mode ultrasound scanner with pulsed Doppler).
  - c. Radio nuclide arteriography (many different isotopes used, either intravenous injection (I.V.) or intra-arterial (I.A.) injection).
- D. Radio nuclide perfusion scan.
- E. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).
- F. Contrast angiography.

## V. LIMITATIONS

Any claim for the third and subsequent repetition of a extremity arterial study-procedure within a period of 12 contiguous months for a specific beneficiary must be referred to medical review for confirmation of medical necessity and appropriateness.

## **VI. EXCLUSIONS**

A. The following segmental plethysmography techniques are excluded for arterial pulse volume and wave from analysis: air filled, water filled, strain gauge, and venous occlusion.

B. The following tests to evaluate cutaneous circulation are excluded: thermal conductance and thermal clearance.

**\*END OF POLICY\***