

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 26.1
TITLE: BONE DENSITY STUDIES

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(b), (c), and (e)(14)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

May 26, 1994

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

- A. CPT codes: 76070-76078, 78350-78351
- B. HCPCS Level II codes: G0130

III. 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.

IV. POLICY

A. Bone density studies are covered for the diagnosis (patient must have signs or symptoms of osteoporosis) and monitoring of osteoporosis.

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

C. 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:

1. Women who are estrogen-deficit and at clinical risk for osteoporosis. This includes naturally or surgically post-menopausal women who have not been on long-term hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

2. Those individuals who have vertebral abnormalities.

3. Those individuals receiving long-term glucocorticoid (steroid) therapy.
4. Those individuals with primary hyperparathyroidism.
5. Those individuals with positive family history of osteoporosis.

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

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

VI. EXCLUSIONS

A. Bone density studies for the routine screening of osteoporosis.

B. Ultrafast CT (electron beam computed tomography) to predict asymptomatic heart disease is preventive.

END OF POLICY