

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 26.14
TITLE: ULTRASOUND (GENERAL)

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

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(a)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), and (e)(19)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

November 1, 1983

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

76506-76536, 76604-76645, 76700-76778, 76800, 76801-76828, 76830-76857, 76870-76873, 76880-76886, 76930-76965, 76970-76999, 93303-93350

III. DESCRIPTION

An ultrasound diagnostic procedure is the visualization of deep structures of the body by recording the reflections (echoes) of pulses of ultrasonic waves directed into the tissues. **Ultrasound is used for diagnostic and guidance purposes.**

IV. 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 or which present a reasonable probability of neonatal complications.**

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Breast echograph (CPT 76645) may be presumed to be medically necessary in the following circumstances:

1. when mammography is inconclusive;
2. evaluation of a densely fibrous breast;
3. following a positive mammography to distinguish a cyst from a solid lesion; and

4. in the evaluation of a discrete breast mass in a young female.

B. Echoencephalograph (CPT 76506) for a neonate may be presumed to be medically necessary in the following circumstances:

1. to evaluate the risk for intracranial bleeding;
2. to evaluate the significance of a history of perinatal asphyxia;
3. to evaluate demonstrated significant neurological findings;
4. to evaluate or localize intracranial abnormalities; and
5. for post-operative evaluation of neurosurgical procedures.

C. Bone density studies (CPT 76977) are covered under the following circumstances:

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

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 and naturally or surgically post-menopausal women who have not been on long-term hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

- 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.

D. Pelvis diagnostic ultrasound when ordered by a physician if there is a personal history of biopsy-proven benign ovarian disease and a mother, sister, or daughter has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

VI. EXCLUSIONS

A. An ultrasound diagnostic procedure, which is not "medically necessary".

B. **Bone density studies for** routine screening for osteoporosis.

C. Ultrasound for routine screening for breast disease.

D. **Ultrasound performed to determine the sex of an unborn child.**

END OF POLICY