

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 26.6
TITLE: ECHOCARDIOGRAM FOR DENTAL AND INVASIVE PROCEDURES

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

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(e)(10)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

May 4, 1998

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

93303-93350

III. DESCRIPTION

An echocardiogram is a non-invasive diagnostic test performed to evaluate the hearts function. It is able to monitor the performance of the valves. It can help to diagnose structural abnormalities in the heart wall, valves, and blood vessels. It can detect tumors, clots or pericardial effusions (abnormal fluid collection around the heart). It is sometimes used after a heart attack to evaluate the cardiac wall motion and function. The most frequent use of an echocardiogram is for diagnosing or monitoring congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathies, or aneurysms.

IV. POLICY

A. An echocardiogram is a covered procedure to evaluate the valves and chambers of the heart, to aid the diagnosis of cardiomyopathies, to detect atrial tumors or pericardial effusions or to evaluate cardiac wall motion and function after a heart attack.

B. An echocardiogram is a covered diagnostic procedure for:

1. cardiac valvulopathy associated ingestion of Pondimin and Redux (Phen-Fen);
2. after a thorough medical history and cardiovascular physical examination reveals a new murmur or symptoms (shortness of breath) of cardiac problems;

3. before dental procedures in patients who have been found to have clinically significant valvular abnormalities; and

4. for abnormalities that create the risk for developing endocarditis, such as, but not limited to:

- a. implanted heart valves as a replacement for their own heart valve;
- b. abnormal native heart valves (leakage, blockage);
- c. any congenital heart defect (VSD, ASD, PDA, complex anomaly);
- d. Dacron or Teflon vascular grafts or patches over cardiac defects;
- e. mitral valve prolapse - only if there is significant valve leakage; and
- f. pacemakers.

END OF POLICY