

OBSTETRICAL ULTRASONOGRAPHY

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Related Policy

- [Radiology Procedures Requiring Precertification for eviCore healthcare Arrangement](#)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This Clinical Policy provides assistance in interpreting Oxford benefit plans. Unless otherwise stated, Oxford policies do not apply to Medicare Advantage members. Oxford reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its policies as necessary. This Clinical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice. The term Oxford includes Oxford Health Plans, LLC and all of its subsidiaries as appropriate for these policies.

When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced. The terms of the member specific benefit plan document [e.g., Certificate of Coverage (COC), Schedule of Benefits (SOB), and/or Summary Plan Description (SPD)] may differ greatly from the standard benefit plan upon which this Clinical Policy is based. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document supersedes this Clinical Policy. All reviewers must first identify member eligibility, any federal or state regulatory requirements, and the member specific benefit plan coverage prior to use of this Clinical Policy. Other Policies may apply.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the MCG™ Care Guidelines, to assist us in administering health benefits. The MCG™ Care Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.

CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE

Applicable Lines of Business/ Products	This policy applies to Oxford Commercial plan membership.
Benefit Type	General benefits package
Referral Required (Does not apply to non-gatekeeper products)	No
Authorization Required (Precertification always required for inpatient admission)	No ^{1, 2}
Precertification with Medical Director Review Required	No
Applicable Site(s) of Service (If site of service is not listed, Medical Director review is required)	Home, Outpatient, Office
Special Considerations	¹ The fourth and subsequent ultrasound procedures per pregnancy require precertification for participating providers as outlined in this policy by eviCore healthcare. ² Refer to the Benefits Consideration section for precertification guidelines for New Jersey (NJ) Small group plans, NJ Individual plans (for Date of Service (DOS) prior to 01/01/17, NJ School Board plans and NJ Municipality plans.

BENEFIT CONSIDERATIONS

Before using this policy, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any federal or state mandates, if applicable.

New Jersey (NJ) Small, NJ Individual (for Date of Service (DOS) prior to 01/01/17), NJ School Board and NJ Municipality Products

Services indicated as requiring a precertification require medical necessity review. This review may be requested prior to service. If a medical necessity review is not requested by the provider prior to service, the medical necessity review will be conducted after the service is rendered with no penalty imposed for failure to request the review prior to rendering the service. It is the referring physician's responsibility to provide medical documentation to demonstrate clinical necessity for the study that is being requested (for review prior to service) or has been rendered (for review after service was provided).

Essential Health Benefits for Individual and Small Group

For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) requires fully insured non-grandfathered individual and small group plans (inside and outside of Exchanges) to provide coverage for ten categories of Essential Health Benefits ("EHBs"). Large group plans (both self-funded and fully insured), and small group ASO plans, are not subject to the requirement to offer coverage for EHBs. However, if such plans choose to provide coverage for benefits which are deemed EHBs, the ACA requires all dollar limits on those benefits to be removed on all Grandfathered and Non-Grandfathered plans. The determination of which benefits constitute EHBs is made on a state by state basis. As such, when using this policy, it is important to refer to the member specific benefit plan document to determine benefit coverage.

COVERAGE RATIONALE

This policy has three components:

1. Utilization Management

Participating Providers will be reimbursed in accordance to their contract, for up to three ultrasounds per pregnancy, based upon their specialty and applicable payment rules, without precertification as outlined in section II and III of this policy.

The fourth and subsequent obstetrical ultrasound procedure per Member per pregnancy performed by a participating provider as outlined are subject to utilization review (pre-certification) by eviCore healthcare.

Oxford has engaged eviCore healthcare to perform initial reviews of requests for pre-certification and Medical necessity reviews. To pre-certify a radiology procedure, please call eviCore healthcare at 1-877-PRE-AUTH (1-877-773-2884) or log on to the eviCore healthcare web site using the [Prior Authorization and Notification App](#).

eviCore healthcare has established an infrastructure to support the review, development, and implementation of comprehensive outpatient imaging criteria. The radiology evidence-based guidelines and management criteria are available on the eviCore healthcare web site using the [Prior Authorization and Notification App](#).

2 & 3. Payment by Specialty & Accreditation/Certification Requirements

Specialists will be reimbursed for radiology services rendered in the office, outpatient or home setting. Services are payable to participating physicians based on their specialty. In addition, certain ultrasounds may not be reimbursed unless the providers hold a particular accreditation.

- Reproductive Endocrinologists may perform the following ultrasound CPT codes; precertification for the fourth and subsequent procedures per Member per pregnancy is required:
 - 76815, 76816, 76817
 - *In addition to the codes listed above a Reproductive Endocrinologist, with an AIUM/ACR accreditation may perform the following studies; precertification for the fourth and subsequent procedure per Member per pregnancy is required:
 - 76801, 76802, 76805, 76810, 76811, 76812, 76813, 76814, 76818, 76819, 76820, 76821, 76825, 76826, 76827, 76828
- Obstetricians/Gynecologists may perform the following ultrasound CPT codes; precertification for the fourth and subsequent procedure per Member per pregnancy is required:
 - 76815, 76816, 76817
 - *In addition to the codes listed above an Obstetrician/Gynecologist, with an AIUM or ACR accreditation may perform the following studies; precertification for the fourth and subsequent procedure per Member per pregnancy is required:

- 76801, 76802, 76805, 76810, 76811, 76812, 76813, 76814, 76818, 76819, 76820, 76821, 76825, 76826, 76827, 76828
- Maternal Fetal Medicine and Perinatal Neonatal Medicine specialists may perform the following ultrasound CPT codes; precertification for the fourth and subsequent procedure per Member per pregnancy is required:
 - 76815, 76816, 76817
 - *In addition to the codes listed above a Maternal Fetal Medicine and Perinatal Neonatal Medicine specialist, with an AIUM or ACR accreditation may perform the following studies, precertification for the fourth and subsequent procedure per Member per pregnancy is required:
 - 76801, 76802, 76805, 76810, 76811, 76812, 76813, 76814, 76818, 76819, 76820, 76821, 76825, 76826, 76827, 76828
- Board Certified Pediatric Cardiologists with the American Board of Pediatrics and Cardiology Laboratories accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission for Echocardiography may perform the following ultrasound CPT codes; precertification for the fourth and subsequent procedure per Member per pregnancy is required:
 - 76825-76828

APPLICABLE CODES

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies may apply.

Payment guidelines are applicable to participating providers only.

- **CPT code 76805** will be reimbursed two times per pregnancy if billed by two different providers and the provider has not already billed a 76811 - if **76805** is billed multiple times, claim(s) will be denied and provider will need to resubmit claim(s) with the correct CPT code (**76815 or 76816**).
- **CPT code 76810** will be reimbursed one time per fetus - if **76810** is billed more than one time per fetus, claim(s) will be denied and provider will need to resubmit claim(s) with the correct CPT code (**76815 or 76816**).
- **CPT code 76811** will be reimbursed two times per pregnancy if billed by two different providers. If **76811** is billed multiple times by the same provider, claim(s) will be denied and provider will need to resubmit claim(s) with the correct CPT code (**76815 or 76816**).
- **CPT code 76812** will be reimbursed one time per fetus - if **76812** is billed is billed more than one time per fetus, claim(s) will be denied and provider will need to resubmit claim(s) with the correct CPT code (**76815 or 76816**).
- **CPT code 76813** will be reimbursed one time per pregnancy for a single fetus or first of a multiple gestation.
- **CPT code 76814** will be reimbursed (in addition to CPT code **76813**) one time per pregnancy for each additional fetus of a multiple gestation.
- **CPT code 76815** will be reimbursed one time per date of service.
- **CPT code 76816** will be reimbursed when reported with modifier 59 for each additional fetus.
- **CPT codes 76818 and 76819**: Profile assessments will be reimbursed for the second and any additional fetuses and should be reported separately by code **76818 or 76819** with the modifier 59 appended.
- **CPT code 76820** will be reimbursed one time per fetus per date of service.
- **CPT code 76821** will be reimbursed one time per fetus per date of service.
- **CPT code 76825** will be reimbursed one time per fetus - if **76825** is billed is billed more than one time per fetus, claim(s) will be denied and provider will need to resubmit claim(s) with the correct CPT code (**76826**).
- **CPT code 76826** will be reimbursed when reported with modifier 59 for follow-up or repeat studies for the second and any additional fetuses.
- **CPT code 76827** will be reimbursed one time per fetus - if **76827** is billed is more than one time per fetus, claim(s) will be denied and provider will need to resubmit claim(s) with the correct CPT code (**76828**).
- **CPT code 76828** will be reimbursed when reported with modifier 59 for follow-up or repeat studies for the second and any additional fetuses.
- Evaluation and management (E&M) codes will be reimbursed on the same date of service as an obstetrical ultrasound only when the service is separate and distinct from routine antepartum care, as indicated by appending modifier -25.

CPT Code	Description
76801	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation, first trimester (< 14 weeks 0 days), transabdominal approach; single or first gestation
76802	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation, first trimester (< 14 weeks 0 days), transabdominal approach; each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

CPT Code	Description
76805	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation, after first trimester (> or = 14 weeks 0 days), transabdominal approach; single or first gestation
76810	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation, after first trimester (> or = 14 weeks 0 days), transabdominal approach; each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
76811	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation plus detailed fetal anatomic examination, transabdominal approach; single or first gestation
76812	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation plus detailed fetal anatomic examination, transabdominal approach; each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
76813	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, first trimester fetal nuchal translucency measurement, transabdominal or transvaginal approach; single or first gestation
76814	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, first trimester fetal nuchal translucency measurement, transabdominal or transvaginal approach; each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
76815	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, limited (e.g., fetal heartbeat, placental location, fetal position, and/or qualitative amniotic fluid volume), one or more fetuses
76816	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, follow up (e.g., re-evaluation of fetal size by measuring standard growth parameters and amniotic fluid volume, re-evaluation of organ system(s) suspected or confirmed to be abnormal on a previous scan), trans abdominal approach per fetus.
76817	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, transvaginal; for non-obstetrical transvaginal ultrasound use 76830; If transvaginal examination is done in addition to transabdominal obstetrical ultrasound exam, use 76817 in addition to appropriate transabdominal exam code.
76818	Fetal biophysical profile; with non-stress testing
76819	Fetal biophysical profile; without non-stress testing
76820	Doppler velocimetry, fetal; umbilical artery
76821	Doppler velocimetry, fetal; middle cerebral artery
76825	Echocardiography, fetal, cardiovascular system, real time with image documentation (2D) with or without M-mode recording
76826	Echocardiography, fetal, cardiovascular system, real time with image documentation (2D) with or without M-mode recording; follow up or repeat study
76827	Doppler echocardiography, fetal, pulsed wave and/or continuous wave with spectral display; complete
76828	Doppler echocardiography, fetal pulsed wave and/or continuous wave with spectral display; follow up or repeat study

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BACKGROUND

Obstetric Ultrasound is a highly developed technique used to detect ectopic pregnancy and multiple pregnancies, assessing fetal life and function, diagnosing physical anomalies, and guiding physicians in their efforts to treat the fetus.

Although the clinical benefit of routine ultrasonography has not been established, it is commonly performed early in pregnancy for confirmation of dates, fetal viability, and pregnancy location. Later studies at 16-20 weeks are used to assess fetal anatomy and to identify potential fetal abnormalities. In addition, there are a variety of complications that require ultrasound for evaluation.

REFERENCES

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Committee on Practice Bulletins - Obstetrics. Ultrasonography in pregnancy. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 58. Washington, DC: ACOG; December 2004.

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Ultrasonography in Pregnancy. Technical Bulletin no. 187, 1993.

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine: Standards of Performance. Antepartum Obstetrical Ultrasound Examination.

American Medical Association. Current Procedural Terminology: CPT Professional Edition.

Lefevre ML, Bain RP, Ewigman BG et al. A randomized trial of prenatal ultrasonographic screening: impact on maternal management and outcome. The RADIUS Study Group. Am.J. Obstet Gynecol 1993; 169:483-489.

National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference. The use of diagnostic ultrasound imaging during pregnancy. JAMA 1984, 252: 669-672.

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), Coding Committee. White paper on ultrasound code 76811. Announcements. Washington, DC: SMFM; May 24, 2004. Available at: www.smfm.org.

POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

Date	Action/Description
10/01/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated coverage rationale:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Redirected reference link to eviCore healthcare radiology evidence-based guidelines and management criteria from "http://www.carecorenational.com/page/criteria.aspx" to "Prior Authorization and Notification App"• Revised list of applicable CPT codes; added payment guidelines to indicate:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 76815 will be reimbursed one time per date of service○ 76816 will be reimbursed when reported with modifier 59 for each additional fetus○ Profile assessments will be reimbursed for the second and any additional fetuses and should be reported separately by code 76818 or 76819 with the modifier 59 appended○ 76826 and 76828 will be reimbursed when reported with modifier 59 for follow-up or repeat studies for the second and any additional fetuses• Archived previous version RADIOLOGY 013A.21 T2