

Reimbursement Policy for Non-Invasive Abdominal/Visceral Vascular Studies

Purpose

This policy is intended to ensure correct provider reimbursement and serves only as a general resource regarding Molina Healthcare's reimbursement policy for the services described in this policy. It is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation, nor is it intended to impact care decisions. This policy was developed using nationally accepted industry standards and coding principles. In a conflict, federal and state guidelines, as applicable, and the member's benefit plan document supersede the information in this policy. Also, to the extent of conflicts between this policy and the provider contract language, the Provider contract language will prevail. Coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of a State, the Federal government or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). References included were accurate at the time of policy approval. If there is a state exception, please refer to the state exception table listed below.

Policy Overview

Non-invasive abdominal/visceral vascular studies use ultrasonic Doppler technology and physiological principles to evaluate irregularities in blood flow within the renal, iliac, and femoral artery systems. These tests are also employed for the diagnosis of aortic aneurysms. The comprehensive scope of noninvasive abdominal/visceral vascular studies encompasses patient care during the procedure, study supervision, and the interpretation of the study results. Additionally, copies of the test results and data analysis, including bi-directional vascular flow or imaging if provided, are documented for inclusion in the patient's records.

It is imperative to note that diagnostic tests must be requisitioned by the attending physician responsible for the member's care and who intends to utilize the results in managing the member's specific medical condition. Medically necessary services are determined by meeting the following conditions:

1. The presence of signs or symptoms indicative of ischemia or altered blood flow.
2. Necessity for the acquired information in guiding appropriate medical and/or surgical interventions.
3. Avoidance of redundancy with other essential diagnostic procedures, although in select cases, non-invasive vascular tests may be used in conjunction. For example, combining MRA (Magnetic Resonance Angiography) and duplex can be beneficial, with the latter confirming inconclusive results or revealing the physiological significance of an anatomical stenosis in renal, iliac, and/or femoral arteries.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Please be aware that incorrectly billed claims, as outlined in the referenced documents, may result in the denial of claims or the retrieval of payments made in error. Molina Healthcare will only reimburse for non-invasive visceral vascular study services when there is a diagnosis of relevant signs, symptoms, or diseases, and when these services are billed with the corresponding diagnosis codes. In cases where the combination of diagnosis and procedure codes is submitted inaccurately, Molina Healthcare retains the authority to assess, decline, and recoup any erroneously disbursed claims.

Supplemental Information

Definitions

Term	Definition
CMS	Center for Medicare and Medicaid
Abdominal	Relating to the abdomen
Anatomic	Relating to the structure of the body
Aortic Aneurysm	Balloon-like bulge in the Aorta
Doppler™	Relating to, using, or produced by Doppler ultrasound
Femoral Arteries	Major blood vessel in the body that carries blood from abdomen through lower limbs
Iliac	Relating to the nearby regions of the lower body
Ischemia	Condition in which blood flow is restricted or reduced in a part of the body
MRA	Magnetic Resonance Angiography
Physiologic	Having to do with the functions of the body
Renal	Relating to the kidneys
Stenosis	Pressure on your spinal cord or the nerves that go from spinal cord to muscles
Vascular	Affecting, or consisting of a vessel or vessels, especially those which carry blood
Visceral	Relating to nervous system

State Exceptions

State	Exception

Documentation History

Type	Date	Action
Published		
Revised Date		

References

This policy was developed using.

- CMS
- State Medicaid Regulatory Guidance
- State Contracts

State/Agency	Document Name/Description	Link/Document
CMS	Billing and Coding: Non-Invasive Abdominal / Visceral Vascular Studies	Article - Billing and Coding: Non-Invasive Abdominal / Visceral Vascular Studies (A57591) (cms.gov)
CMS	Non-Invasive Abdominal / Visceral Vascular Studies	LCD - Non-Invasive Abdominal / Visceral Vascular Studies (L35755) (cms.gov)