

Ultrasound & Antepartum Testing Services

Brad Hart, MBA, MS, CMPE, CPC, CPMA, COBGC

Reproductive Medicine Administrative Consulting

Gastonia, North Carolina



Fetal testing by an MFM

- There have been significant advancements in technology and diagnostic tools
 - The use of these tools is the cornerstone of MFM practice
 - As tools have changed, codes have changed (and will continue to change)
- Let's review the tools, the associated codes, and their use...



But before that...

- • • • • •
- The parts of an ultrasound and other diagnostic tests
 - Professional component
 - Technical component
- Professional Component (26)
 - Supervision of test (if any)
 - Interpretation
 - Written report
- Technical Component (TC)
 - Technician salary/benefits (if any)
 - Equipment
 - Necessary supplies



Reviewing specific modifier usage

• • • • • • • • •

- Performed at hospital or other facility:
 - Physician who performs or interprets the test bills the Professional Component (26)
 - Facility bills the Technical Component (TC)
- Performed at physician's office or physician owned facility:
 - Physician reports total service without a modifier



- CPT includes notes to help define services
- Language added to general guidelines
- "Use of ultrasound, without thorough evaluation of organ(s) or anatomic region, image documentation, and final, written report, is not separately reportable."



- New guideline regarding written report(s) which states:
 - A written report (eg, handwritten or electronic) signed by the interpreting individual should be considered an integral part of a radiologic procedure or interpretation.
 - With regard to CPT descriptors for radiography services, "images" refer to those acquired in either an analog (ie, film) or digital (ie, electronic) manner.



- Therefore, ultrasound codes are NOT reported when:
 - Ultrasound is used as means to perform component of physical exam
 - Equipment does not produce hard copy or permanent digital image
 - Only brief summary noted in E/M service
- Must document distinct, final written report with interpretation



Action	Person(s) involved	Focus
Testing	Sonographer/ Physician	Performance of ultrasound exam
Results	Sonographer/ Physician	Compiling of findings from ultrasound exam
Interpretation	Physician	Determination of the meaning of the findings with consideration of clinical circumstances
Report	Physician	Work product of the interpretation of test results. Permanent report (written or digital) of results and interpretation required.



- An ultrasound report should include:
 - Exam performed (using CPT codes)
 - Indication for procedure (using ICD codes)
 - Interpretation of the exam/findings
 - Description of required elements or reason not visualized
 - Physician signature on interpretation and final reports



- If multiple services are performed:
 - Each service should be documented separately
 - The time of day for each service if performed at different times on the same day
- Communication of results to the patient is part of the service
 - We'll clarify how and where to draw the line.



What's included?

- Post-service work
 - Preparing a complete report for the medical record
 - Reviewing and signing the prepared report
 - Discussing the *normal* findings with the patient and referring physician when appropriate

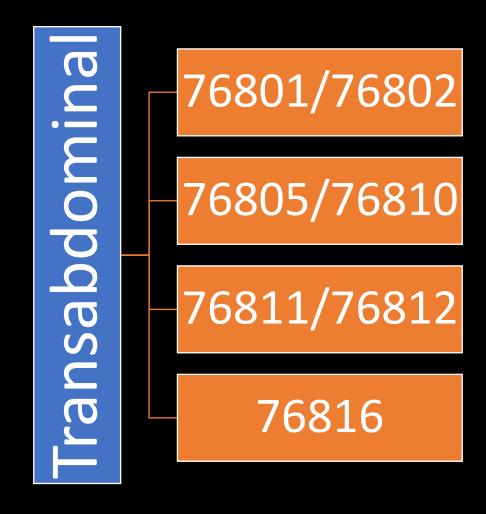


What's not included?

- Counseling or any further discussion with the patient if there are abnormal findings, and developing management/treatment plan options
 - These can therefore be reported separately and billed with the appropriate evaluation and management code (992xx).

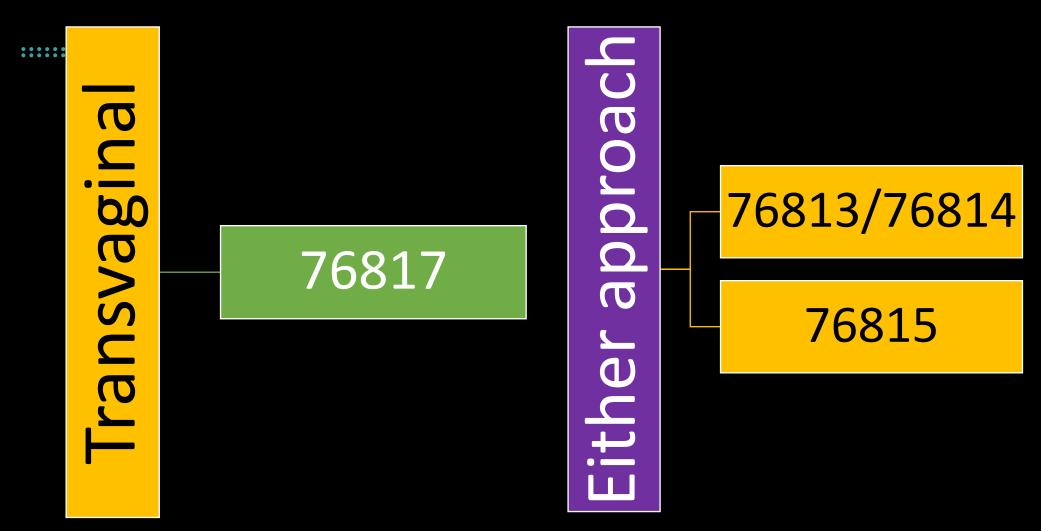


Ultrasound codes, by approach









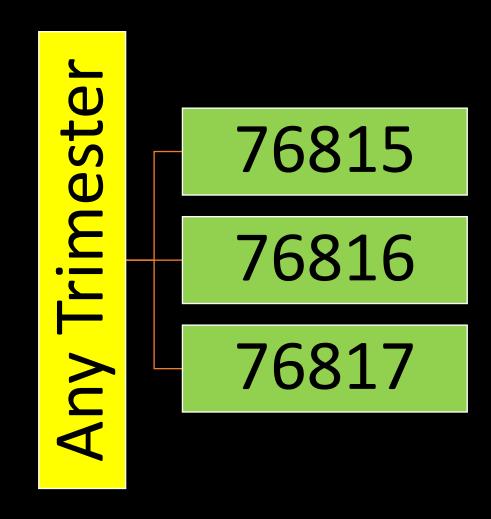


Ultrasound codes, by trimester





Ultrasound codes, by trimester



Antepartum testing

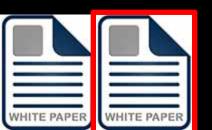


76818 **BPP** 76819 76820 Doppler velocimetry 76821 **Antepartum Testing** 76825 Fetal Echocardiography 76826 76827 **Fetal Doppler Echocardiography** 76828 Copyright © 2022 Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine



Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation, first trimester (<14 weeks 0 days), transabdominal approach; single or first gestation

each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure performed)





- Determination of the number of gestational sacs and fetuses
- Gestational sac/fetal measurements appropriate for gestation
- Survey of visible fetal and placental anatomic structure
- Qualitative assessment of amniotic fluid volume/gestational sac shape
- Examination of maternal uterus and adnexa
- Service generally performed for a specific indication (with associated diagnosis(es))



Possible diagnoses

• • • • • • • • •

Z36.87 Antenatal screening for uncertain dates

Clinically relevant indications, such as:

O20.0 Threatened abortion

• O26.891/R10.2 Other spec preg. conditions/Pelvic pain

• O99.- Other maternal diseases



Darla

• Darla is a 36 year old G_4P_{2012} who presents for an ultrasound because size was greater than dates on initial evaluation by pelvic examination. She is found to have twins on ultrasound. Dr. Dotson performs the study, which confirms the pregnancy dating, and the chorionicity of the twins. She is 12 weeks pregnant with diamniotic, monochorionic twins.



Darla

Dr. Dotson



21. I	. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. Relate A-L to service line below (24E).							22. RESUBMISSION CODE			ORIG REF. NO.									
A.	026	.84	1*		B.	O 3	0.03	1	C.	O09.5	21	D.	Z 3	A.12						
E.					F.				G.			H.			23.	PRIOR	AUTHORI	ZATION	NUMBEI	R
I.					J.				K.			L.								
24.A. From MM	DATE(S) (DD	OF SERV YY	To) IM	DD	Υ	Y	B. POS		ROCEDURES,SE Explain Unusual C PT		s)	ES	E. DX POINTER	F. \$ CH	IARGES	G. DAYS/ UNITS	I. ID QUAL	J. RENDERI PROVIDE	
								11	7	6801				ABCD			1	NPI		
								11	7	6802				ABCD			1	NPI		

ICD-10 Codes	ICD-10 Description
O26.841*	Uterine size-date discrepancy, 1st trimester
O30.031	Twin pregnancy, monochorionic/diamniotic, 1st trimester
O09.521	Supervision of elderly multigravida, 1st trimester
Z3A.12	12 weeks gestation



Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, first trimester fetal nuchal translucency measurement, transabdominal or transvaginal approach; single or first gestation

each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)





- Performed first trimester to assess risk of chromosomal abnormalities
- Transabdominal or transvaginal approach
 - Should not be billed routinely in combination with codes 76801-76802 (first trimester ultrasound)
 - Documentation should support need for both services



- These codes include three components:
 - Fetal viability
 - Crown/rump measurement
 - Nuchal thickness measurement

- Most likely diagnosis:
 - Z36.82 Encounter for antenatal screening for nuchal translucency





Ellen

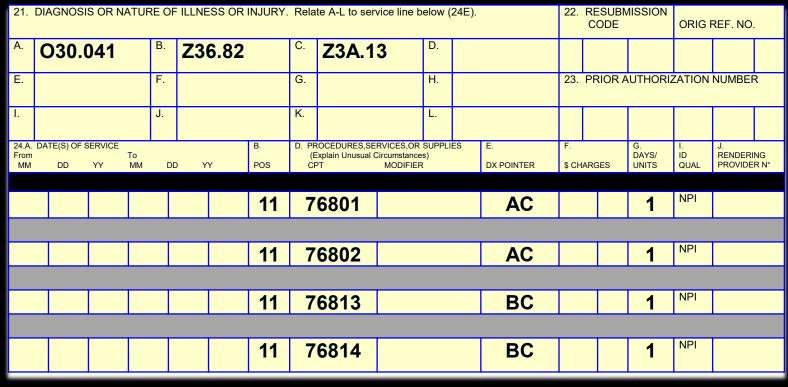
 Ellen is a 22 year old G₁P₀ who presents for first trimester genetic screening. Her 1st trimester ultrasound at her obstetrician's office suggested a twin gestation, but this could not be confirmed with certainty. A transabdominal scan confirms that she is carrying twins. Dr. Ellerbee performs the studies, which confirms the pregnancy dating, and the chorionicity of the twins. She is 13 weeks pregnant with diamniotic, dichorionic twins.



Ellen

Dr. Ellerbee





ICD-10 Codes ICE	D-10 Descri	ption
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O30.041	Twin pregnancy, dichorionic/diamniotic, first trimester
Z36.82	Screening for nuchal translucency
Z3A.13	13 weeks gestation of pregnancy

What if the nuchal translucency is not competed?

- 76817 (OB Transvaginal Ultrasound)
 - Provided all required components (i.e. fetal viability) are adequately documented in the final report.
- 76815 (Limited Ultrasound Study)
- 76813-52 (Reduced Service)



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

each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure performed)





• **76805/76810** includes evaluation of the following fetal and maternal components in the second and third trimesters.

The following information is based on the *Consensus Report* on the *Detailed Fetal Anatomic Ultrasound Examination: Indications, Components, and Qualifications*





Head and Neck Region:

- Lateral Cerebral ventricles
- Choroid plexus
- Midline falx
- Cavum septi pellucidi
- Cerebellum
- Cisterna magna



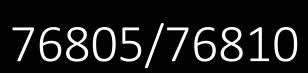
Face:

• Upper Lip

Chest:

- Cardiac activity
- Four chamber view
- Left ventricular outflow tract
- Right ventricular outflow tract







Abdomen:

- Stomach (presence, size, and situs)
- Kidneys
- Urinary Bladder
- Cord insertion site into fetal abdomen
- Umbilical cord vessel number

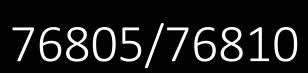




Spine:

- Cervical
- Thoracic
- Lumbar
- Sacral spine







Extremities:

- Legs
- Arms

Placenta:

- Placenta location
- Relationship to internal os
- Appearance
- Placental cord insertion (when possible)

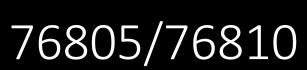


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Standard Evaluation:

- Fetal Number
- Presentation
- Qualitative or semi-qualitative estimation of amniotic fluid







Biometry:

- BPD
- Head circumference
- Femur Length
- Abdominal circumference
- Fetal weight estimate (EFW)



76805/76810

Maternal Anatomy:

- Cervix (TV when indicated)
- Uterus
- Adnexa



Possible diagnoses

• • • • • • • • • •

• Z36.3 Antenatal screening for malformation, OR

- Clinically relevant indications, such as:
 - O09.5-- Advanced maternal age
 - O26.84- Size/date discrepancy
 - O99.- Other maternal diseases



Fran

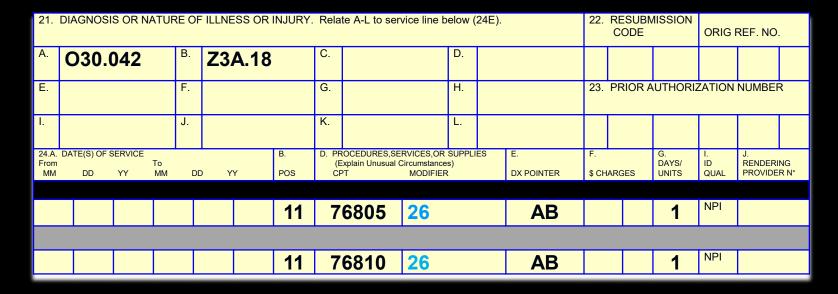
 Fran is a 26 year old G₂P₁₀₀₁ presents at 18 weeks of gestation to her obstetrician's office 120 miles away from Dr. Franklin's unit. She is known to have dichorionic twins. Her medical and family histories are unremarkable. Dr. Franklin has an agreement with that office to read their ultrasound studies remotely. The patient is unable to come to Dr. Franklin's office, so a standard twin anatomy study is done locally.



Fran

Dr. Franklin





ICD-10 Codes ICD-10 Description

O30.042 Z3A.18 Twin pregnancy, dichorionic/diamniotic, second trimester 18 weeks gestation of pregnancy



76811/76812

Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation plus detailed fetal anatomic examination, transabdominal approach; single or first gestation

each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure performed)





76811/76812

- It requires **everything** required in 76805/76810, **plus** the elements to be described.
- It requires an appropriate clinical indication as reflected in the *Consensus Report*.
- Some components depend on the gestational age at the time the examination is performed. Components marked with an asterisk (*) are performed when medically indicated.





Head and Neck Region:

- 3rd ventricle and 4th ventricle*
- Corpus callosum*
- Integrity and shape of cranial vault
- Brain parenchyma
- Neck



76811/76812

Face:

- Profile
- Coronal face (nose/lips/lens*)
- Palate*, maxilla, mandible and tongue*
- Ear position and size*
- Orbits*





Chest:

- Aortic arch
- SVC/IVC
- 3 vessel and trachea view
- Lungs
- Integrity of diaphragm
- Ribs*





Abdomen:

- Bowel-small and large*
- Adrenal glands*
- Gallbladder*
- Liver
- Renal arteries*
- Spleen*





Spine:

• Shape and curvature

Extremities:

- Number: architecture & position
- Hands
- Feet
- Digits: number & position*



76811/76812

Placenta:

- Masses
- Placental cord insertion
- Accessory/succenturiate lobe with location of connecting vascular supply to primary placenta*





Biometry:

- Cerebellum*
- Inner and Outer Orbital Diameters*
- Nuchal thickness (16-20 weeks)
- Nasal Bone measurement (15-22 weeks)
- Humerus*
- Ulna/Radius*
- Tibia/Fibula*



Grace

Grace is a 36 year old G₂P₁₀₀₁ at 19 weeks gestation. Dr. Gibson previously evaluated her pregnancy and confirmed her dates and the chorionicity of the pregnancy. She has a monochorionic/diamniotic twin gestation. Her interval history is unremarkable.



Grace

Dr. Gibson



21. I	DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. Relate A-L to service line below (24E).												22.	22. RESUBMISSION CODE			ORIG REF. NO.		
A.	O30	.032		B.	00	9.52	2	C.	Z3A.1	9	D.								
E.				F.				G.			H.			23.	PRIOR A	AUTHORI	ZATION	NUMBEI	R
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							11	7	6811				ABC			1	NPI		
							11	7	6812				ABC			1	NPI		

ICD-10 Codes	ICD-10 Description
O30.032	Twin pregnancy, monochorionic/diamniotic, 2 nd trimester
O09.522	Supervision of elderly multigravida, 2 nd trimester
Z3A.19	19 weeks gestation



Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, limited (eg, fetal heart beat, placental location, fetal position and/or qualitative amniotic fluid volume), one or more fetuses







- The maximum number of times this service can be billed per day?
 - 1
- It is used in any trimester
- No approach designation-typically used in connection with the abdominal approach



- "Quick look" of *one or more* of the following:
 - Fetal position
 - Fetal heart beat
 - Placental location
 - Qualitative amniotic fluid volume
- Or, a limited service when a complete service has been done elsewhere



Helen

 Helen is a G5P3104 who is at 16 weeks 0 days, with a history of spontaneous preterm birth. She presented today for a consultation with Dr. Harlan. Dr. Harlan did a limited ultrasound to look at the placental location, which was concerning to the obstetrician on the anatomy scan earlier that week. The transabdominal scan indicated that the placenta was low-lying and posterior, but there was no previa evident.



Helen

Dr. Harlan



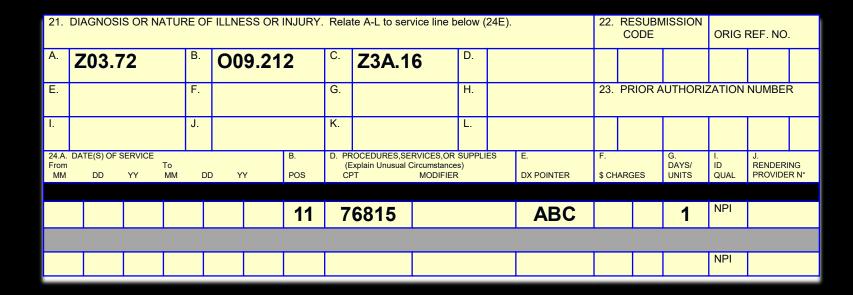
21.	DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. Relate A-L to service line below (24E).												22. RESUBMISSION CODE			ORIG REF. NO.				
A.	04	4.4	42		B.	O09	9.21	2	C.	Z3A.1	6	D.								
E.					F.				G.			H.			23.	PRIOR A	UTHORIZ	ZATION	NUMBE	₹
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								11	7	6815				ABC			1	NPI		
																		NPI		

ICD-10 Codes	ICD-10 Description
O09.212	Supervision of pregnancy with hx of preterm labor, 2 nd trimester
O44.42	Low lying placenta w/o hemorrhage
Z3A.16	16 weeks gestation





Helen



ICD-10 Codes	ICD-10 Description
Z03.72	Encounter for suspected placental problem, ruled out
O09.212	Supervision of pregnancy with hx of preterm labor, 2 nd trimester
Z3A.16	16 weeks gestation





Ultrasound, pregnant, uterus, real time with image documentation, follow-up (eg, 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), transabdominal approach per fetus







Ultrasound, pregnant, uterus, real time with image documentation, *follow-up* (eg, 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), transabdominal approach per fetus





- "Follow up" strongly implies a previous ultrasound
 - CPT says...
 - "designed to reassess fetal size and interval growth or reevaluate one or more anatomic abnormalities of a fetus previously demonstrated on ultrasound..."



- An unusual reporting of multiple gestation
 - (Report 76816 with modifier 59 for each additional fetus examined in a multiple pregnancy)
 - Fetus 1 76816
 - Fetus 2 76816-59
 - Diagnosis O30.0--



Iris

• Iris is a 35yo G_3P_{1001} @ 32 weeks 2 days with twins, who is being seen by Dr. Irvine for a follow-up growth scan. She has dichorionic/diamniotic twins.



Iris Dr. Irvine



21.	DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. Relate A-L to service line below (24E).													22. RESUBMISSION CODE			ORIG REF. NO.			
A.	O3	0.0	043		B.	O 0	9.52	3	C.	Z3A.3	2	D.								
E.					F.				G.			Н.			23.	PRIOR A	UTHORIZ	ZATION	NUMBEI	R
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								11	7	6816		·		ABC			1	NPI		
								11	7	6816	59			ABC				NPI		

ICD-10 Codes	ICD-10 Description
O30.043	Twin pregnancy, dichorionic/diamiotic, 3 rd trimester
O09.523	Supervision elderly multigravida, 3 rd trimester
Z3A.32	32 weeks gestation



- Can you bill 76805 twice in a pregnancy?
- ACOG Coding Manual states:

"When all the elements of a fetal and maternal evaluation are performed for a subsequent time for a medically necessary reason, the subsequent ultrasound(s) may be reported using this code (76805)."

But...





Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, transvaginal

• "...performed separately or in addition to one of the transabdominal examinations described above."





• • • • • • • • •

- May include:
 - Evaluation of the embryo and gestational sac(s)
 - Evaluation of the maternal uterus, adnexa, and/or cervix
- No multiple gestation designation





• • • • • • • • • •

- Universal screening for cervical length
 - Typically done in conjunction with 76805 and/or 76811
 - Gestational age typically somewhere between 18-24 weeks
 - Diagnosis: **Z36.86 Antenatal screening for cervical length**
 - Or, known or suspected cervical problem
 - Reimbursement issues...





 Documentation in the Ultrasound Report must clearly state the modality and indication.

"Transvaginal ultrasound was performed in conjunction with a transabdominal ultrasound to better visualize the cervix. Cervical length appears to be within normal limits for gestational age.

Cervical Measurement ____mm".



Janice

• Janice is a 17yo G_2P_{0101} @ 18 weeks 0 days with a previous spontaneous preterm birth, who is presenting to Dr. Jordan for cervical length measurement. There was evidence of cervical shortening.



Janice

Dr. Jordan



21.	DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. Relate A-L to service line below (24E).												22.	RESUBM CODE	AISSION	ORIG REF. NO.			
A.	O26.	.872		B.	00	9.21	2	C.	Z3A.1	8	D.								
E.				F.				G.			H.			23.	PRIOR A	AUTHORIZ	ZATION	NUMBER	₹
l.				J.				K.			L.								
24.A. From MM	DATE(S) OF	F SERVICE YY	E To MM	DD	D Y	Y	B. POS	(E	ROCEDURES,SEF Explain Unusual C :PT		es)	ES	E. DX POINTER	F. \$ CH	HARGES	G. DAYS/ UNITS	I. ID QUAL	J. RENDERI PROVIDE	
							11	7	'6817				ABC			1	NPI		
																	NPI		

ICD-10 Codes	ICD-10 Description
O26.872	Cervical shortening, 2 nd trimester
O09.212	Supervision of pregnancy with history of preterm labor,
	2 nd trimester
Z3A.18	18 weeks gestation



Karen

......

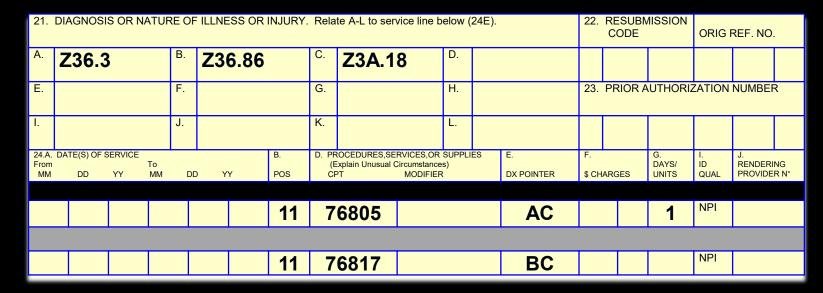
• Karen, a 26 year old G_1P_0 was sent by her obstetrician to Dr. Kaplan for a 2^{nd} trimester anatomy scan and cervical length screening. All findings were within normal limits.



Karen

Dr. Kaplan





ICD-10 Codes	ICD-10 Description
Z36.3	Encounter for antenatal screening for malformations
Z36.86	Encounter for antenatal screening for cervical length
Z3A.18	18 weeks gestation

Evaluating service values



Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs
76801	1 st Trimester transabdominal	0.99	3.46
76801-26	1 st Trimester transabdominal, Prof. Comp. (PC)	0.99	1.42
76802	1 st Trimester transabdominal, ea addl	0.83	1.81
76802-26	1 st Trimester transabdominal, ea addl PC	0.83	1.20
76805	2 nd /3 rd Tri. transabdominal	0.99	3.97
76805-26	2 nd /3 rd Tri. transabdominal PC	0.99	1.43
76810	2 nd /3 rd Tri. transabdominal, ea addl	0.98	2.63
76810-26	2 nd /3 rd Tri. transabdominal, ea addl, PC	0.98	1.43
76811	Detailed ultrasound, 2 nd /3 rd trimester	1.90	5.12
76811-26	Detailed ultrasound, 2 nd /3 rd trimester, PC	1.90	2.77
76812	Detailed ultrasound, 2 nd /3 rd trimester, ea addl	1.78	5.72
76812-26	Detailed ultrasound, 2 nd /3 rd trimester, ea addl, PC Copyright © 2022 Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine	1.78	2.62

Evaluating service values



Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs
76813	Nuchal translucency	1.18	3.45
76813-26	Nuchal translucency, professional component (PC)	1.18	1.73
76814	Nuchal translucency, ea addl	0.99	2.27
76814-26	Nuchal translucency, each addl, PC	0.99	1.46
76815	Limited ultrasound	0.65	2.38
76815-26	Limited ultrasound, PC	0.65	0.93
76816	Follow up ultrasound	0.85	3.23
76816-26	Follow up ultrasound, PC	0.85	1.24
76817	Transvaginal ultrasound	0.75	2.73
76817-26	Transvaginal ultrasound, PC	0.75	1.08



Biophysical Profile (BPP)

76818 (Complete)

- NST
- Fetal breathing movements
- Fetal movement
- Fetal tone
- Amniotic fluid volume

76819 (Incomplete)

- Fetal breathing movements
- Fetal movement
- Fetal tone
- Amniotic fluid volume



BPP Scoring

76818 (Complete)

- NST = 2
- Fetal breathing movements = 2
- Fetal movement = 2
- Fetal tone = 2
- Amniotic fluid vol. = 2
- Total 10/10

76819 (Incomplete)

- Fetal breathing movements = 2
- Fetal movement = 2
- Fetal tone = 2
- Amniotic fluid vol. = 2
- Total 8/8



76818/76819

••••••

- An unusual reporting of multiple gestation
 - (Report 76818 with modifier 59 for each additional fetus examined in a multiple pregnancy)
 - Fetus 1 76818
 - Fetus 2 76818-59
 - Diagnosis: Appropriate for indication



Other Services with BPP

- Complete BPP (76818) and NST (59025) at Same Session
 - Report only 76818
- Incomplete BPP (76819) and NST (59025) at *Separate Sessions on same day*
 - Report 76818



Other Services with BPP

- Complete BPP (76818) and additional NST (59025) during Separate Sessions on same day
 - Report 76818 AND 59025-59
 - Need for 2nd NST demonstrated
 - Modifier 59 (Distinct procedure)



Other Services with BPP

•••••

- Complete BPP (76818) and Ultrasounds on Same Day
 - Both BPP and ultrasound reported
 - Ultrasound: *Anatomic* examination
 - BPP: *Physiologic* examination
- Medical necessity must be supported



Fetal non-stress test (59025)

- Proper documentation...
 - It is not enough to state "NST reactive" in the progress note to meet the requirements for this service.
 - Prolonged monitoring (or any portion thereof) is not an NST.
 - It's part of the E/M service for that date.
 - The medical necessity needs to be reflected in both the note and the diagnosis(es).





Fetal non-stress test (59025)

• • • • • • • • •

- Complete BPP (76818) and Ultrasounds on Same Day
 - Both BPP and ultrasound reported
 - Ultrasound: *Anatomic* examination
 - BPP: *Physiologic* examination
- Medical necessity must be supported



Reporting 59025

• • • • • • • • •

- Two in one day
 - 59025 and 59025-76/59025-77
- Twins
 - 59025 x 2 or
 - 59025 and 59025-59

- Most payers won't reimburse more than 2 per day per fetus
 - But only if clinical indications are present



Lisa

••••••

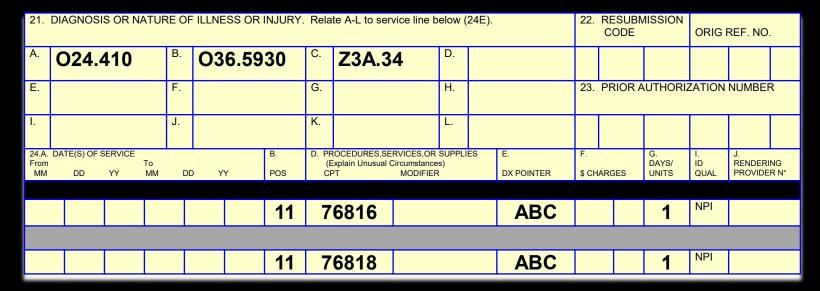
• Lisa is a 25yo G_1P_0 @ 34 weeks 3 days with GDMA, managed with insulin and fetal growth restriction at the 7th percentile (AC<3rd). Today, she presents to Dr. Lewis for a fetal growth ultrasound and antenatal testing (biophysical profile with NST).



Lisa

Dr. Lewis





ICD-10 Codes

ICD-10 Description

O24.410 O36.5930 Z3A.34 Gestational diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, 3rd trimester Maternal care for other known or suspected poor fetal growth 34 weeks gestation



Other antenatal testing

• 76820

Doppler velocimetry, fetal; umbilical artery



......

- Measuring velocity of blood flow through umbilical artery
 - To identify abnormalities present in a growth-retarded fetus
 - Same code for "initial" or "subsequent" study
 - Performed transabdominally or transvaginally
 - Use 59 modifier on multiple fetuses
 - Includes color flow mapping (93325)



Doppler velocimetry, fetal; middle cerebral artery

- Measuring velocity of blood flow through middle cerebral artery
 - Peak velocity is inversely related to the fetal hematocrit
 - Fetal cardiovascular distress
 - Fetal anemia
 - Fetal hypoxia



Doppler velocimetry, fetal; middle cerebral artery

- Transabdominal or transvaginal
- Use 59 modifier on multiple fetuses
- Includes color flow mapping (93325)



Mary

• Mary is a 35yo G₃P₁₀₀₁ @ 35 weeks 2 days with congenital pulmonary airway malformation (CPAM), fetal growth restriction, AMA, and a history of prior cesarean delivery (x2). Today, she presents to Dr. Morton at her hospital-based practice for a follow-up growth ultrasound growth ultrasound, BPP, and Doppler surveillance.



Mary

Dr. Morton

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21. [. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. Relate A-L to service line below (24E).							22.	RESUBN CODE	MISSION	ORIG	REF. NC).						
Α.	O09	893		B.	O 3	5.8X	X 0	C.	O36.5	930	D.	00	9.523						
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ICD-10 Codes	ICD-10 Description
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ice in control	HOD TO DOCK SHOTH
O09.893	Supervision of high risk pregnancy in third trimester
O35.8XX0	Maternal care for other (suspected) fetal abnormality & damage
O36.5930	Pregnancy affected by fetal growth restriction
O09.523	Elderly multigravida in third trimester
O34.219	History of cesarean delivery
Z3A.35	35 weeks gestation of pregnancy Medicine



Fetal Echocardiography

 76825 Echocardiography, fetal, cardiovascular system, real time with image documentation (2D), with or without M-mode recording;

76826 follow-up or repeat study



Fetal Echocardiography

• • • • • • • • •

• 76827 Doppler echocardiography, fetal, pulsed wave and/or continuous wave with spectral display; complete

76828 follow-up or repeat study



Ultrasonic procedure to identify congenital anomalies, such as:

- Atrial and ventricular septal defects
- Aortic stenosis
- Hypoplastic left heart syndrome
- Cardiomyopathy
- Assessment of functional abnormalities



76825 service includes

- Evaluation of all parts of the fetal heart, including venous connections, chambers, competence/movement of valves and great arterial connections
 - Four-chambered view
 - Left ventricular outflow tract
 - Right ventricular outflow tract
 - Three-vessel and trachea view



76825 service includes

- Evaluation of all parts of the fetal heart, including venous connections, chambers, competence/movement of valves and great arterial connections
 - Short axis views ("low" for ventricles and "high" for outflow tracts)
 - Aortic arch
 - Ductal arch
 - Superior vena cava (SVC)
 - Inferior vena cava (IVC)

Maternal indications for 76825



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- Autoimmune antibodies, anti-Ro (SSA)/anti-La (SSB)
- Familial inherited disorders (e.g., Marfan syndrome)
- First-degree relative with congenital heart disease
- In vitro fertilization
- Metabolic disease (e.g., diabetes mellitus and phenylketonuria)
- Teratogen exposure (e.g., retinoids and lithium)

Fetal indications for 76825



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- Abnormal cardiac screening examination
- Abnormal heart rate or rhythm
- Fetal chromosomal anomaly
- Extracardiac anomaly
- Hydrops
- Increased nuchal translucency
- Monochorionic twins

76826 service includes



Follow-up or repeat study

- Assessment of cardiac function
- Evaluation of the heart anomaly (e.g. frequency of runs of supraventricular tachycardia in the fetus)

Typically identified in and pertinent to an initial examination.



Fetal Doppler Echocardiography CPT 76827

- Reported with 76825 when the clinical indications exist. Spectral, continuous wave, color, and/or power Doppler sonography can be used to evaluate the following structures for potential flow or rhythm disturbances.
- Fetal Doppler Echocardiography evaluates the velocity and turbulence of blood flow within the fetal cardiovascular system.





The service includes:

- Atrioventricular valves
- Semilunar valves
- Ductus Venosus
- Umbilical vein and artery (optional)
- Cardiac rhythm disturbance, and
- Any structure in which an abnormality is noted.



Fetal indications for 76827

Fetal Indications, including but not limited to:

- Anatomical/structural
- Functional/dysrhythmia



76828 service includes:

Follow-up or repeat study

 This code is used to report follow-up or repeat fetal Doppler echocardiography.



+93325

Doppler echocardiography color flow velocity mapping (List separately in addition to codes for echocardiography)

(Use 93325 in conjunction with **76825**, **76826**, **76827**, **76828**, 93303, 93304...)



Color flow mapping (93325)

Echocardiography includes obtaining ultrasonic signals from the heart and great arteries, with two-dimensional image and/or Doppler ultrasonic signals documentation, interpretation and report.



AIUM Guidelines state:

"Color Doppler Sonography should be used to evaluate the following structures for potential flow disturbances":



- Systemic veins (including superior and inferior vena cava and Ductus Venosus)
- Pulmonary veins
- Foramen ovale
- Atrioventricular valves
- Atrial and ventricular septa
- Semilunar valves
- Ductal arch
- Aortic arch
- Umbilical vein and artery (optional)



Documenting 93325

How do you document 93325?

"Color flow mapping was utilized during this fetal cardiac study."



Nancy

Nancy is a 35yo G₂P₁₀₀₁ @ 24 weeks 5 days with history of prior offspring with right sided-aortic arch. Her prior pregnancy was notable for gestational diabetes, but was otherwise uncomplicated with delivery at term. Today, she presents to Dr. Norton for a screening fetal echocardiogram with color Doppler flow mapping and follow-up fetal growth ultrasound.



Nancy

Dr. Norton

21. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. Relate A-L to service line below (24E).									22. RESUBMISSION CODE		ORIG REF. NO.									
Α.	O09	.29	2		B.	00	9.52	2	C.	Z86.3	2	D.	Z 3	A.24						
E.				F.				G.			H.			23. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER			R			
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								11	9	3325				ABCD			1	NPI		
ICD-10 Codes ICD-10 Description																				
O26.292					Supervision of pregnancy with other poor reproductive or obstetric history, 2nd trimester															
O09.522				Advanced maternal age, multigravida, 2 nd trimester																
Z86.32				F	Pers	onal	h	story	of ge	sta	atio	nal dial	oet	es						
Z3A.24			2	24 weekshgestationety for Maternal-Fetal Medicine																

Ductus Venosus Doppler



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 There is not a specific CPT Code for reporting only a Ductus Venosus Doppler. If it is sampled as part of a new or repeat fetal Doppler echocardiogram, for standard indications, the following codes would be correct.





How to bill other services...

- Ductus venosus Doppler
 - Billable as part of 76827/76828
 - Not separately billable alone
- Ductus arteriosus Doppler
 - Billable as part of 76827/76828
 - Not separately billable alone
- PR interval measurement
 - Typically 76828



Reporting 3D ultrasound

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76376

3D rendering with interpretation and reporting of computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound, or other tomographic modality; not requiring image post processing on an independent workstation.

76377

requiring image post processing on an independent workstation



Ultrasound and third-party payers



The big question—why is my ultrasound claim being denied?



- Ultrasound frequency
- Medical necessity...or lack thereof



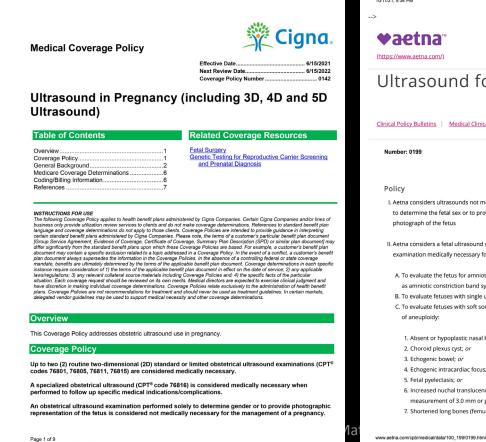
This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND



How do you know?

Most payers publish their guidelines on their respective websites

https://static.cigna.com/asse ts/chcp/pdf/coveragePolicies /medical/mm_0142_routine _ultrasound_use_in_materni ty_care_3d4d.pdf



Ultrasound for Pregnancy Clinical Policy Bulletins | Medical Clinical Policy Bulletins Policy History Last Review 🛮 Aetna considers ultrasounds not medically necessary if done solely to determine the fetal sex or to provide parents with a view and Effective: 02/05/1998 photograph of the fetus Next Review: 02/10/2022 II. Aetna considers a fetal ultrasound with detailed anatomic Review History 2 examination medically necessary for the following indications: Definitions 2 A. To evaluate the fetus for amniotic band syndrome (also known as amniotic constriction band syndrome); or B. To evaluate fetuses with single umbilical artery (SUA); or Additional Information C. To evaluate fetuses with soft sonographic markers Clinical Policy Bulletin Notes 🗹 1. Absent or hypoplastic nasal bone; or 2. Choroid plexus cyst: at 3. Echogenic bowel; or 4. Echogenic intracardiac focus; or 5. Fetal pyelectasis; or 6. Increased nuchal translucency (fetal nuchal translucency measurement of 3.0 mm or greater in the first trimester); or 7. Shortened long bones (femur or humerus): or

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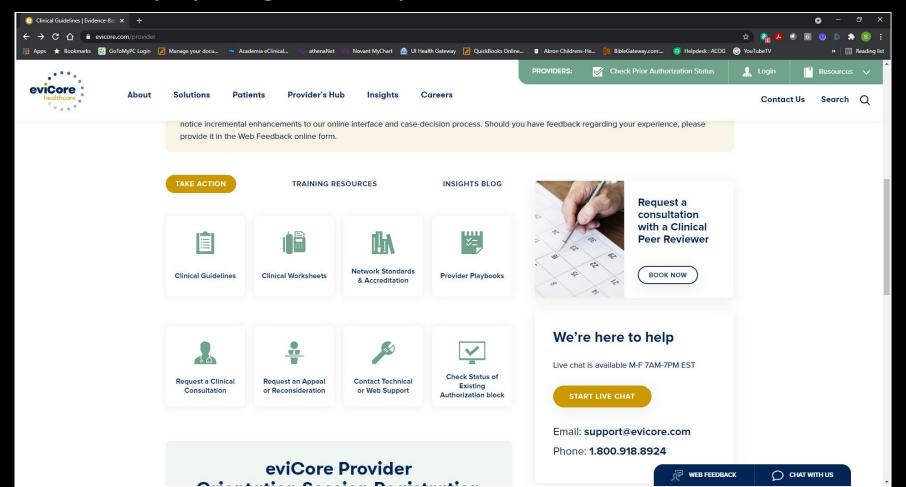
http://www.aetna.co m/cpb/medical/data/ 100_199/0199.html



How do you know?

evicore.com/provider

Where do the payers get their policies?



How do you know?

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 Where do the payers get their policies? OB Ultrasound Imaging Guidelines

V2.0

OB-9.6: High Risk Group Six – Pre-Gestational Diabetes

OB-9.6.1: Pre-Gestational or Early Diagnosed (≤20 weeks) Diabetes - Not on Medication

Test	When	Frequency	Codes		
First Trimester Ultrasounds	<14 weeks	Once	CPT® 76801 and/or CPT® 76817		
Dating Ultrasound if no prior dating and ≥14 weeks	14-16 weeks	Once	CPT® 76815		
Fetal anatomic scan	≥16 weeks	Once	CPT® 76811		
Initial Fetal echo (if HbA1C >6%)	Starting at ≥16 weeks	Once	CPT® 76825 and/or CPT® 76827 and/or CPT® 93325		
Ultrasound (for fetal growth)	Starting in the 3 rd trimester	Every 3 to 6 weeks	CPT® 76816		
Biophysical Profile (BPP) or modified BPP	Starting at 32 weeks	Once per week	CPT® 76818 (BPP) or CPT® 76819 (BPP) or CPT® 76815 (modified BPP)		

<u>OB-9.6.2: Pre-Gestational or Early Diagnosed (≤20 weeks) Diabetes - On</u> Medication

Test	When	Frequency	Codes
First Trimester Ultrasounds	<14 weeks	Once	CPT® 76801 and/or CPT® 76817
Dating Ultrasound if no prior dating and ≥14 weeks	14-16 weeks	Once	CPT® 76815
Fetal anatomic scan	≥16 weeks	Once	CPT® 76811
Initial Fetal echo	Starting at ≥16 weeks	Once	CPT® 76825 and/or CPT® 76827 and/or CPT® 93325
Ultrasound (for fetal growth)	Starting at viability 23 weeks	Every 2 to 4 weeks	CPT® 76816
Biophysical Profile (BPP) or modified BPP	Starting at 32 weeks (may start at ≥26 weeks if complicated by additional risk factors)	Up to twice weekly	CPT® 76818 (BPP) or CPT® 76819 (BPP) or CPT® 76815 (modified BPP)
Umbilical artery Doppler (if FGR diagnosed)	Upon diagnosis of FGR if ≥23 weeks	Weekly	CPT® 76820

Practice Notes

➤ Per ACOG - If diabetes is diagnosed prior to pregnancy or in the first or early second trimester (typically before 20 weeks gestation) with standard diagnostic criteria of: HbA1C ≥6.5%, fasting plasma glucose ≥126 mg/dL, or 2-hour glucose ≥200 mg/dL on a 75-g oral glucose tolerance test, it is considered pre-gestational DM.

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Questions? about ultrasound?