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Ultrasound, scrotum, and contents

Adjudication Guideline

Abstract

For Members

Diagnostic ultrasound is an imaging technique bouncing sound waves far above the level of human perception through interior body structures. The sound waves pass through different densities of tissue and reflect a receiving unit at varying speeds. The unit converts the waves to electrical pulses that are immediately displayed in picture form on the screen. This code reports ultrasonography of the scrotum and scrotal contents.

Ultrasound imaging of the scrotum provides pictures of the testicles and the surrounding tissues of a man or a boy.

For Medical Professionals

A testicular ultrasound (sonogram) is a test that uses reflected sound waves to show a picture of the testicles and scrotum. The test can show the long, tightly coiled tube that lies behind each testicle and collects sperm (epididymis). And it can show the tube (vas deferens) that connects the testicles to the prostate gland. The ultrasound does not use X-rays or other types of radiation.⁵

A small hand-held device called a transducer is passed back and forth over the scrotum. The device sends the sound waves to the computer, which turns them into a picture. This picture is shown on a video screen. The picture produced by ultrasound is called a sonogram, echogram, or scan. Pictures or videos of the ultrasound images may be saved.

Approved by:
Daman

Responsible:
Medical Standards & Research

Related Adjudication Guidelines:

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Scope

The scope of this adjudication rule is to highlight the medical necessity and coverage of Ultrasound, scrotum, and contents for all health insurance plans administered by DAMAN subject to policy terms and conditions.

The physician or ultrasound technician applies conductive gel on the skin overlying the scrotum. This helps in the transmission of the sound waves. An ultrasound machine sends high-frequency sound waves through a probe which is called a transducer. The transducer is then pressed against the skin and moved over the area being studied. The machine creates images that are displayed on the monitor.²

The provider performs an ultrasound of the scrotal pouch that contains the male testicles to assess disorders of the testes, the organs that produce sperm in males.

Ultrasound imaging of the scrotum is the primary imaging method used to evaluate disorders of the testicles, epididymis (a tube immediately next to the testes that collect sperm made by the testicles), and scrotum. Ultrasound can often detect an absent or undescended testicle in a boy as well.³

Testicular ultrasound is done to :⁵

- Check a mass or pain in the testicles.
- Find or check on an infection or swelling of the testicles or epididymis.
- Check for twisting of the spermatic cord. This problem cuts off blood supply to the testicles (testicular torsion).
- Check to see if testicular cancer has come back.
- Find an undescended testicle.
- Check for fluid in the scrotum (hydrocele), fluid in the epididymis (spermatocele), blood in the scrotum (hematocele), or pus in the scrotum (pyocele).
- Guide a biopsy needle for a testicular biopsy. This may be done when testing for infertility.
- Check an injury to the genital area.

Adjudication Policy

Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Scrotal ultrasound is considered medically necessary if any of the following indications:

- acute scrotal pain or testicular torsion
- acute scrotal trauma or injury
- suspected infectious or inflammatory scrotal disease
- scrotal neoplasm or mass
- scrotal varices (varicocele)
- hydrocele or spermatocele/epididymal cyst
- suspected inguinal hernia (occult)
- nonpalpable testes
- in the evaluation of infertility if it's part of fertility it will not be covered for basic, enhance (according to SOB) and for Thiqa is covered

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Eligible Clinician

Eligible Clinician
Urologist
Radiologist
Sonographer

Requirements for Coverage

- ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.
- Failure to submit, upon request or when requesting a clinical history, an indication the need for testing will result in rejection of the claim.

Non-Coverage

- If not medically indicated.
- Not covered for visitor plan.

Payment and Coding Rules

- Kindly apply DOH payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT

Denial codes

Code description
Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice
Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses/activities
Service(s) is (are) not covered
Activity/diagnosis inconsistent with clinician specialty
Submission not compliant with contractual agreement between provider & payer

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Appendices

A. References

1. CPT® Code 96523 - Other Injection and Infusion Services | CPT® Codes List (aapc.com).
2. Citrix XenApp - Logon (daman health.ae).
3. Imaging-Instructions-Sheets.indd (johnstonhealth.org).
4. doi:10.1016/j.emc.2004.04.002 (ucsf.edu).
5. Testicular Ultrasound | HealthLink BC.

B. Revision History

Date	Change(s)
27/12/22	Release of V1.0

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