

Ultrasound in Family Medicine Credentialing and Billing

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Credentialing

- Accreditation
 - External, Practice or institution level
- Certification
 - External, Practitioner level
- Privileging
 - Local, Practitioner level
 - Hospital Committee, Professional Guidelines



Credentialing

- I. Residency Track
- II. Practice Track
 - 1. CME Course
 - 2. Document Supervised Scans
 - A. 25 per exam (10 for guided procedure) or 150 for global point-of-care ultrasound
 - B. Directly supervised , Images reviewed, or compared to formal exams
 - 3. Approval by credentialed provider



Questions?

Billing

Requirements for accreditation,
certification or credentialing

- Medicare and Medicaid
 - No specific requirements
 - A licensed physician must perform or supervise
- Private Insurances
 - May have additional requirements



Report Requirements for Diagnostic CPT Codes

1. Indication (Medically Necessary)
2. Description of the exam (Limited?)
3. Findings (Including measurements)
4. Impression
5. Permanent image storage

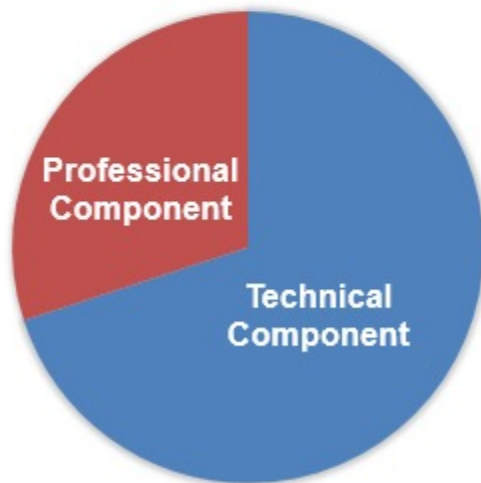


Diagnostic CPT Code Reimbursement

GLOBAL FEE

Professional Component

- Interpretation
- Report
- -26 Modifier



Technical Component

- Equipment
- Sonographer
 - Image acquisition and storage
 - Preliminary report
- Overhead
- -TC Modifier

Medicare National Average 2022

EXAM	CPT	TC	Prof Comp*
Limited transthoracic echo	93308	\$76.48	\$25.26
Limited chest ultrasound	76604	\$31.84	\$28.38
Screening Ultrasound for AAA	76775	\$31.49	\$28.38
Limited extremity venous	93971	\$114.74	\$22.93
Arthrocentesis with ultrasound, large joint	20611	n/a	\$102.09
Arthrocentesis without ultrasound, large joint	20606	n/a	\$66.44
FNA with image guidance	10005	\$142.95	\$142.23
Vascular access	76937	\$26.65	\$13.84

* Modifier-26, professional (interpretation and report) component only

Equipment Costs

- Basic Laptop with 4 probes
 - \$40 – 75 K to purchase
 - \$600 - \$1,250 per month for 5-year lease
- Pocket Ultrasound
 - \$2 – 10 K to purchase
 - \$150 - 200 per month for 5-year lease
- Section 197 Tax Deduction

Start Up Model

- Lease least expensive machine
- Start with ultrasound billing to supplement something you are already doing
- Practice other applications
- Expand what you bill for as you develop comfort or credentialing necessary
- Upgrade equipment later

Questions?