

EMERGENCY ULTRASOUND CODING GUIDE UPDATE 2015

CORE EMERGENCY ULTRASOUND CODES

US STUDY	CPT CODE	CPT Description	wRVU 2015	NOTES
FAST: SCAN FOR HEMOPERICARDIUM AND HEMOPERITONEUM, MAY INCLUDE LUNG US FOR PNEUMOTHORAX	93308	Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), with or without M-Mode recording; follow-up or limited	0.53	
	76705	Echography, abdominal, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, limited (eg, single organ, quadrant, follow-up)	0.59	
	76604	Ultrasound, chest, B-scan (includes mediastinum) and/or real time with image documentation	0.55	
INTRAUTERINE PREGNANCY				
PREGNANT TRANSABDOMINAL (TA)	76815	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	0.65	
PREGNANT TRANSVAGINAL (TV)	76817	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, transvaginal	0.75	No limited code exists.
AAA	76775	Echography, retroperitoneal (eg renal, aorta, nodes); B-scan and/or real time with image documentation; limited	0.58	
CARDIAC	93308	Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), with or without M-Mode recording; follow-up or limited	0.53	
BILIARY	76705	Echography, abdominal, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, limited (eg, single organ, quadrant, follow-up)	0.59	
URINARY TRACT/RENAL	76775	Echography, retroperitoneal (eg renal, aorta, nodes); B-scan and/or real time with image documentation; limited	0.58	
POST-VOID RESIDUAL	51798	Measurement of post-voiding residual urine and/or bladder capacity by ultrasound, nonimaging	0	Use for bladder scanner, not for ultrasound machine.
BLADDER IMAGING	76857	Imaging of bladder	0.50	Bladder anatomy including volume
FOCUSED DVT STUDY	93971	Duplex scan of extremity veins including responses to compression and other maneuvers; unilateral or limited study.	0.45	
SOFT TISSUE ULTRASOUND				
NECK	76536	Ultrasound, soft tissues of head and neck (eg, thyroid, parathyroid, parotid), B-scan and/or real time with image documentation	0.56	
AXILLA	76882	Ultrasound, extremity, non-vascular, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation	0.49	
CHEST WALL	76604	Ultrasound, chest, B-scan (includes mediastinum) and/or real time with image documentation	0.55	
BREAST	76641	Ultrasound, breast, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, complete	0.73	
	76642	Ultrasound, breast, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, limited	0.68	
UPPER BACK	76604	Ultrasound, chest, B-scan (includes mediastinum) and/or real time with image documentation	0.55	
LOWER BACK	76705	Echography, abdominal, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, limited (eg, single organ, quadrant, follow-up)	0.59	
ABDOMINAL WALL	76705	Echography, abdominal, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, limited (eg, single organ, quadrant, follow-up)	0.59	
PELVIC WALL	76857	Ultrasound, pelvic (nonobstetric), B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, limited or follow-up	0.50	Appropriate for male or female pelvic evaluation
LOWER EXTREMITY	76882	Ultrasound, extremity, non-vascular, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation	0.49	
MUSCULOSKELETAL (EXTREMITY, NON-VASCULAR)	76882	Ultrasound, extremity, non-vascular, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation	0.49	Appropriate for evaluation of foreign bodies, abscess, tendon lac, other focused extremity exam
INFANT HIP, STATIC	76886	Ultrasound, infant hips, real time with imaging documentation; limited, static (not requiring physician manipulation)	0.62	
THORACIC	76604	Ultrasound, chest, B-scan (includes mediastinum) and/or real time with image documentation	0.55	Pneumothorax evaluation
OCULAR	76512	Ophthalmic ultrasound, diagnostic; B-scan (with or without superimposed non-quantitative A-scan)	0.94	
OCULAR FB	76529	Ophthalmic ultrasonic foreign body localization	0.57	
MISCELLANEOUS ULTRASOUND	76999	Unlisted ultrasound procedure (ex, diagnostic, interventional)	0	

ADJUNCT EMERGENCY ULTRASOUND CODES (recommend advanced training)

US STUDY	CPT CODE	CPT Description	wRVU 2015	NOTES
ADVANCED ECHO	93308	Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), with or without M-Mode recording; follow-up or limited	0.53	
TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHO	93312	Echocardiography, transesophageal, real time with image documentation (2D) (with or without M-mode recording); including probe placement, image acquisition, interpretation and report	2.55	
BOWEL	76705	Echography, abdominal, B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, limited (eg, single organ, quadrant, follow-up)	0.59	
ADNEXAL PATHOLOGY				
NONPREGNANT TA	76857	Ultrasound, pelvic (nonobstetric), B-scan and/or real time with image documentation, limited or follow-up	0.50	
NONPREGNANT TV	76830		0.69	No limited code exists.
FOCUSED DUPLEX SCAN OF OVARIES OR TESTES FOR TORSION	93976		0.80	
US SCROTUM AND CONTENTS	76870		0.64	No limited code exists.
TRANSCRANIAL DOPPLER FOR VENTRICULOPERITONEAL SHUNT EVALUATION	93888		0.50	
CONTRAST ULTRASOUND STUDIES				No code exists for enhanced ultrasound studies. Code for unenhanced study.
IMAGE GUIDED FLUID COLLECTION DRAINAGE BY CATHETER, PERITONEAL/RETROPERITONEAL TRANSVAGINAL/TRANSRECTAL	49407	(eg, abscess, hematoma, seroma, lymphocele, cyst), peritoneal/retroperitoneal transvaginal/transrectal includes moderate sedation when used. Must leave catheter in place for drainage.	4.5	

ULTRASOUND-GUIDED PROCEDURE CODES

US-GUIDED PROCEDURE	CPT CODE	NOTES	wRVU 2015	ADDITIONAL CPT CODE
US-GUIDED PERICARDIOCENTESIS	76930	Requires image of site to be localized but does not require image of needle in site.	0.67	33010
US GUIDED VASCULAR ACCESS PLACEMENT	76937	Requires written documentation of real-time ultrasound guidance and a representative image but does not require image of needle in site.	0.3	36000, 36555, 36556, 36557, 36558
US-GUIDED THORACENTESIS	32555	Requires image of site to be localized but does not require image of needle in site.	2.27	
	32557	Thoracentesis and catheter placement. Requires image of site to be localized but does not require image of the needle	3.17	
US-GUIDED PARACENTESIS	49083	Requires image of site to be localized but does not require image of needle in site.	2	
IMAGE GUIDED FLUID COLLECTION DRAINAGE BY CATHETER, SOFT TISSUE	10030	(eg, abscess, hematoma, seroma, lymphocele, cyst), soft tissue (eg, extremity, abdominal wall, neck), percutaneous, includes moderate sedation when used. Must leave catheter in place for drainage. Requires image of site to be localized but does not require image of needle in site.	3	
IMAGE GUIDED FLUID COLLECTION DRAINAGE BY CATHETER, VISCERAL PERCUTANEOUS	49405	(eg, abscess, hematoma, seroma, lymphocele, cyst), visceral (eg, bladder), percutaneous, includes moderate sedation when used. Must leave catheter in place for drainage. Requires image of site to be localized but does not require image of needle in site.	4.25	
IMAGE GUIDED FLUID COLLECTION DRAINAGE BY CATHETER, PERITONEAL/RETROPERITONEAL PERCUTANEOUS	49406	(eg, abscess, hematoma, seroma, lymphocele, cyst), peritoneal/retroperitoneal percutaneous, includes moderate sedation when used. Must leave catheter in place for drainage. Requires image of site to be localized but does not require image of needle in site.	4.25	
MISCELLANEOUS ULTRASOUND-GUIDED PROCEDURE WITHOUT CATHETER	76942	Requires image of site to be localized but does not require image of needle in site.	0.67	
US-GUIDED ABSCESS DRAINAGE	76942		0.67	10160 OR 10061*
US-GUIDED PERITONSILLAR ABSCESS DRAINAGE	76942		0.67	42700
US-GUIDED LUMBAR PUNCTURE	76942		0.67	62270
US-GUIDED SUPRAPUBIC ASPIRATION	76942		0.67	51100
US-GUIDED FB REMOVAL	76942		0.67	10120 OR 10121
US-GUIDED JOINT ASPRIATION	20604	Arthrocentesis of small joint	0.89	
	20606	Arthrocentesis of medium joint	1.00	
	20611	Arthrocentesis of large joint	1.10	

SEPARATELY BILLABLE CPT CODES FOR ULTRASOUND GUIDED PROCEDURES (in numerical order)

CPT CODE	DESCRIPTION	wRVU 2015
10120	INCISION AND REMOVAL FOREIGN BODY SIMPLE	1.22
10121	INCISION AND REMOVAL FOREIGN BODY COMPLICATED	2.74
10160	INCISION AND DRAINAGE OF ABSCESS SIMPLE	1.25
10061	INCISION AND DRAINAGE OF ABSCESS COMPLICATED	2.45
33010	PERICARDIOCENTESIS, INITIAL	2.24
36000	PLACE NEEDLE IN VEIN	0.18
36555	INSERTION OF NON-TUNNELED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER AGE < 5 YO	2.68
36556	INSERTION OF A NON-TUNNELED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER AGE > 5 YO	2.50
36557	INSERTION OF A PERIPHERALLY INSERTED NON-TUNNELED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER AGE <5 YO	5.14
36558	INSERTION OF A PERIPHERALLY INSERTED NON-TUNNELED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER AGE > 5YO	4.84
42700	DRAINAGE OF TONSIL OR PERITONSILLAR ABSCESS	1.67
51100	ASPIRATION OF BLADDER BY NEEDLE	0.78
62270	DIAGNOSTIC LUMBAR PUNCTURE	1.37

Disclaimer: wRVU are for 2015 only and may change in future years.

Additions and edits from the 2014 US Coding Guide Update are in RED

*Correction from 2014 US Coding Guide Update

