

# Diagnostic Doppler Studies

## Outpatient and Facility Services and Claims

### Diagnostic Doppler Sonography

Doppler sonography uses a transducer that transmits and receives the returned sound waves as vibrations to help study blood flow throughout the body. The transducer turns the vibrations into electrical pulses that travel to the ultrasonic scanner where they're processed and transformed into a digital image.

#### Cerebrovascular Doppler Studies

Cerebrovascular Doppler sonography includes both extracranial (procedure codes 93880 and 93882) and intracranial (procedure codes 93886, 93888, 93890, 93892 and 93893) studies. These Doppler studies are used to investigate cerebral hemodynamics (e.g., blood flow, vasculitis, cerebral fluid collection/hydrocephalus, cerebral vascular disorders).

#### Peripheral Doppler Studies

Peripheral Doppler sonography is used to determine vascular impedance and evaluate peripheral masses and peripheral nerve continuity. Peripheral Doppler sonography includes both arterial (procedure codes 93922, 93923, 93924, 93925, 93926, 93930 and 93931) and venous (procedure codes 93970 and 93971) studies.

### Diagnosis Requirements

Diagnostic Doppler sonography studies are only eligible as a benefit for certain conditions. Doppler sonographies not billed with one of the required diagnoses will be denied. For more information, go to TMHP > Providers > Texas Provider Procedure Manual > [Medical and Nursing Specialists, Physicians and Physician Assistant Handbook](#) > Section 9.2.26.

### Limitations

Diagnostic Doppler procedure codes are limited to one study per day, per care provider. When medically necessary, multiple Doppler procedures (e.g., studies of extracranial arteries and intracranial arteries) billed on the same day by the same care provider will be reimbursed at the full fee for the first study and half the fee for each additional study, regardless of the number of services billed.

Using transcranial Doppler studies, performed for the assessment of stroke risk in clients ages 2 – 16 and who have sickle cell anemia, should be limited to once every 6 months.

### What This Means to You

We're looking at our historical Diagnostic Doppler sonography claims payments. If we find we've paid incorrectly, you'll receive a recovery letter with instructions.

### We're Here to Help

If you have questions, please contact your Physician Advocate or call us at **888-887-9003** from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Central Time, Monday – Friday. Thank you.