CPT/HCPCS Codes

93975 Duplex scan of arterial inflow and venous outflow of abdominal, pelvic, scrotal contents and/or retroperitoneal organs; complete study

93976 limited study

93978 Duplex scan of aorta, inferior vena cava, iliac vasculature, or bypass grafts; complete study

93979 unilateral or limited study

ICD-9 Codes that Support Medical Necessity

Arterial inflow and venous outflow of abdominal, pelvic, scrotal contents and/or retroperitoneal organs (procedure codes 93975 and 93976)

288.8 Other specified disease of white blood cells
401.9 Unspecified essential hypertension
440.1 Atherosclerosis of renal artery (e.g., renal artery stenosis)
442.1 Other aneurysm of renal artery
442.84 Other aneurysm of other visceral artery (e.g., celiac, superior mesenteric)
452 Portal vein thrombosis
453.3 Other venous embolism and thrombosis of renal vein
456.0-456.21 Esophageal varices
456.4 Scrotal varices
557.0 Acute vascular insufficiency of intestine
557.1 Chronic vascular insufficiency of intestine
572.3 Portal hypertension
593.81 Vascular disorders of kidney (e.g., renal artery thrombosis)
593.89 Other specified disorders of kidney and ureter (e.g., renal artery fistula)
599.7 Hematuria
608.2 Torsion of testis
608.83 Other specified disorders of male genital organ, vascular disorders
780.79 Other malaise and fatigue
782.4 Jaundice, unspecified, not of newborn
783.21 Loss of weight
785.9 Other symptoms involving cardiovascular system (bruit)
789.00-789.09 Abdominal pain
789.1 Hepatomegaly
789.2 Splenomegaly
789.30-789.39 Abdominal or pelvic swelling, mass, or lump
789.5 Ascites
Nonspecific abnormal findings on radiological and other examination of abdominal area, including retroperitoneum

902.20-902.29 Injury to celiac and mesenteric arteries
902.31-902.39 Injury to portal and splenic veins
902.41 Injury to blood vessels of renal artery
902.42 Injury to blood vessels of renal vein
902.87 Injury to multiple vessels of abdomen and pelvis
902.9 Injury to unspecified blood vessel of abdomen and pelvis
V42.0 Organ or tissue replaced by transplant, kidney
V42.7 Organ or tissue replaced by transplant, liver
V42.83 Organ or tissue replaced by transplant, pancreas
V67.00 Follow-up examination following surgery, unspecified
V67.09 Follow-up examination following other surgery

**Aorta, inferior vena cava, iliac vasculature, or bypass grafts (procedure codes 93978 and 93979)**

424.1 Aortic valve disorders (e.g., aortic regurgitation)
440.20-440.29 Atherosclerosis of native arteries of the extremities
441.00-441.03 Dissection of aorta
441.2 Thoracic aneurysm without mention of rupture
441.4 Abdominal aneurysm without mention of rupture
441.7 Thoracoabdominal aneurysm, without mention or rupture
441.9 Aortic aneurysm of unspecified site without mention of rupture
442.2 Other aneurysm of iliac artery
443.9 Peripheral vascular disease, unspecified (e.g., intermittent claudication)
444.0 Arterial embolism and thrombosis of abdominal aorta
444.1 Arterial embolism and thrombosis of thoracic aorta
444.81 Arterial embolism and thrombosis of iliac artery
451.81 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of iliac vein
453.2 Other venous embolism and thrombosis of vena cava
458.9 Hypotension, unspecified
723.1 Cervicalgia
724.1 Pain in thoracic spine
724.2 Lumbago
729.5 Pain in limb
782.0 Disturbance of skin sensation
782.3 Edema
782.5 Cyanosis
782.61 Pallor
782.8 Changes in skin texture
784.49 Other voice disturbance (e.g., hoarseness)
784.5 Other speech disturbance (e.g., dysphagia)
785.9 Other symptoms involving cardiovascular system (e.g., arterial bruits, weak pulses)
786.05 Shortness of breath (e.g., dyspnea)
Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity

Arterial inflow and venous outflow of abdominal, pelvic, scrotal contents and/or retroperitoneal organs (procedure codes 93975 and 93976)

Connecticut and Florida Medicare may provide coverage for duplex scanning of arterial inflow and venous outflow of abdominal, pelvic, scrotal contents and/or retroperitoneal organs when performed for one or more of the following indications:

• evaluate patients presenting with signs or symptoms such as epigastric or periumbilical postprandial pains that last for 1-3 hours and/or with associated weight loss resulting from decreased oral intake which may indicate chronic intestinal ischemia;

• evaluate patients presenting with an acute onset of crampy or steady epigastric and periumbilical abdominal pain combined with minimal or no findings on abdominal examination and a high leukocyte count to rule out acute intestinal ischemia;

• evaluate a patient who has sustained trauma to the abdominal, pelvic and/or retroperitoneal area resulting in a possible injury to the arterial inflow and/or venous outflow of the abdominal, pelvic and/or retroperitoneal organs;

• evaluate a suspicion of an aneurysm of the renal artery or other visceral artery based on a patient’s signs and symptoms of abdominal pain or noted as an incidental finding on another radiological examination;

• evaluate a hypertensive patient who has failed first line antihypertensive drug therapy in order to rule out renovascular disease such as renal artery stenosis, renal arteriovenous fistula, or renal aneurysm as a cause for the uncontrolled hypertension;

• evaluate a patient with signs and symptoms of portal hypertension. These may include abdominal discomfort and distention, abdominal collaterals (caput medusae), abdominal bruit, ascites, encephalopathy, esophageal varices, splenomegaly, etc.;

• evaluate patients suspected of an embolism, thrombosis, hemorrhage or infarction of the portal vein, renal vein and/or renal artery. These patients may present with many different symptoms such as abdominal discomfort, hematuria, cardiac failure, diastolic hypertension, jaundice, fatigue, weakness, malaise, etc.;
• evaluate patients with pain or swelling of scrotal contents which may be as a result of suspected obstruction in arterial inflow or venous outflow to the testicles or related structures. The use of duplex scanning of scrotal contents should only be performed after conventional diagnostic test, such as ultrasound, have proven to be “non-definitive”;

• To evaluate patients for complications of transplanted organ: kidney, liver or pancreas.

Aorta, inferior vena cava, iliac vasculature, or bypass grafts (procedure codes 93978 and 93979)

Connecticut and Florida Medicare may provide coverage for duplex scanning of aorta, inferior vena cava, iliac vasculature, or bypass grafts when performed for one or more of the following indications:

• confirm a suspicion of an abdominal or iliac aneurysm raised by a physical examination or noted as an incidental finding on another radiological examination. The physical examination usually reveals a palpable, pulsatile and nontender abdominal mass;

• monitor the progression of an abdominal aortic aneurysm. It is usually expected that monitoring occurs approximately every six (6) months;

• evaluate patients presenting with signs and symptoms of a thoracic aneurysm. The symptoms usually associated with a thoracic aneurysm are substernal chest pain, back or neck pain described as deep and aching or throbbing as well as symptoms due to pressure on the trachea (dyspnea, stridor, a brassy cough), the esophagus (dysphagia), the laryngeal nerve (hoarseness), or superior vena cava (edema in neck and arms, distended neck veins);

• evaluate patients presenting with signs and symptoms of an abdominal aneurysm. The symptoms usually associated with an abdominal aneurysm are constant pain located in the midabdomen, lumbar region or pelvis which can be severe and may be described as having a boring quality. A leaking aneurysm is characterized by lower back pain, whereas, acute pain and hypotension usually occur with rupture;

• evaluate a patient presenting with signs and symptoms suggestive of an aortic dissection. A patient with an aortic dissection has symptoms such as a sudden onset of severe, continuous tearing or crushing pain in the chest that radiates to the back and is generally unaccompanied by EKG evidence of a myocardial infarction. On physical examination, the patient is agitated, has a murmur of aortic regurgitation, asymmetric diminution of arterial pulses and systolic bruits over the areas where the aortic lumen is narrowed;

• initial evaluation of a patient presenting with signs and symptoms such as intermittent claudication in the calf muscles, thighs and/or buttocks, rest pain, weakness in legs or feeling of tiredness in the buttocks, etc. which may suggest occlusive disease of the aorta and iliac arteries. The physical examination usually reveals decreased or absent femoral pulses, a bruit over the narrowed artery, and possibly muscle atrophy. If severe occlusive disease exists, the patient will have atrophic changes of the skin, thick nails, coolness of the skin with pallor and cyanosis;

• evaluate patients suspected of an abdominal or thoracic arterial embolism or thrombosis. These patients usually present with severe pain in one or both lower extremities, numbness, and symmetric weakness of the legs, with absent or severely reduced pulses below the embolism site;

• evaluate patients presenting with complaints of pain in the calf or thigh, slight swelling in the involved leg, tenderness of the iliac vein, etc. which may suggest phlebitis or thrombophlebitis of the iliac vein or inferior vena cava.
• evaluate a patient who has sustained trauma to the chest wall and/or abdomen resulting in a possible injury to the aorta, inferior vena cava and/or iliac vasculature;

• assess the continued patency of both native venous and prosthetic arterial grafts following surgical intervention. Usually this is performed at 6 weeks, 3 months, then every six (6) months;

• monitor the sites of various percutaneous interventions, including, but not limited to angioplasty, thrombolysis/thrombectomy, atherectomy, or stent placement. Usually this is performed at 6 weeks, 3 months, then every six (6) months.

Note: Duplex testing should be reserved for specific indications for which the precise anatomic information obtained by this technique is likely to be useful. Therefore, it would be rare to see duplex scanning being performed for conditions in which another diagnostic test is recommended (e.g., an aortic dissection is better diagnosed with a chest x-ray, transesophageal echocardiogram or aortography)