

Prenatal ultrasound coverage and coding

Wellpoint District of Columbia, Inc. | Medicaid

Welcome to Wellpoint DC

When it comes to our pregnant enrollees, we're committed to keeping both mom and baby healthy. This communication is to provide information on prenatal ultrasound coverage and coding. Wellpoint DC covers CPT® codes 76801, 76802, 76805, 76810, 76811, 76812, 76815, 76816, and 76817 for outpatient prenatal ultrasounds relevant to our pregnant enrollees. This policy communication is limited to the CPT codes specified. Please refer to the clinical utilization management guideline entitled *Maternal Ultrasound in the Outpatient Setting* (CG-Med-42) at <https://providers.wellpoint.com/DC> for details on medical necessity criteria for maternal ultrasounds.

Wellpoint DC covers one routine prenatal ultrasound for fetal anatomic survey per pregnancy (76801 and 76805). Additional ultrasounds for procedural codes 76811, 76812, 76815, 76816, and 76817 relevant to suspected maternal/fetal abnormality or follow-up require an appropriate diagnosis indicating medical necessity. Without medical documentation, ultrasounds for procedural codes 76811, 76812, 76815, 76816, and 76817 will not be reimbursed. This policy does not apply to ultrasounds performed by maternal fetal medicine specialists, in hospital settings, or by radiology providers.

Our policies are based on medical necessity, consideration of nationally accepted medical practice standards, review of medical literature, and governmental approvals. We referred to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) *Practice Bulletin on Ultrasound in Pregnancy* (number 175 published in December 2016) to create this policy. According to this bulletin, "ultrasonography should be performed only when there is a valid medical indication...with the intention of providing medical benefit to the patient." Specifically, the ACOG practice bulletin states, "The use of two-dimensional or three-dimensional ultrasonography without a medical indication and only to view the fetus, obtain a *keepsake* picture, or determine the fetal sex is inappropriate and contrary to responsible medical practice."

We hope this information is helpful to you. If you have questions regarding prenatal ultrasound coverage, please call our national Provider Experience team at **800-454-3730**. We appreciate your commitment to the health of our enrollees.