
Ultrasound Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

Changes & Effective Date

Previously: Medicare would cover Ultrasound Screening for AAA only if ordered in the first year of Medicare eligibility at the time of the 'Initial Preventive Physical Exam' (IPPE), also commonly known as the 'Welcome to Medicare visit.'

Change: Effective January 1, 2015, Medicare has eliminated the requirement that eligible beneficiaries must receive a referral for Ultrasound Screening for AAA at the time of the IPPE. Eligible beneficiaries need only to obtain a referral from their physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist. This referral does not need to be within the first year of Medicare eligibility. This still remains a once in a lifetime benefit.

ACE Interpretation and Recommendations

Documentation must support medical necessity by including documentation to support why the beneficiary is eligible. Beneficiaries are considered eligible when they meet one of the following criteria:

- Has a family history of abdominal aortic aneurysm;
- Is a man age 65 to 75 who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in his lifetime

Patient must not have previously received the Ultrasound Screening for AAA under Medicare.

HCPCS code: G0389

ICD-9 codes covered:

- Z13.6 – Encounter for screening for cardiovascular disorders

Other ICD-9 related codes:

- F17.21X – Nicotine dependence, cigarettes. 'X' indicates the need for a 6th digit
- Z82.49 – Family history of cardiovascular disease
- Z87.891 – Personal history of nicotine dependence

Assessment of Impact to Department

wRVU for G0389: .58

Medicare Allowable: \$117.34

Outline of CU Medicine Process

Please distribute this information to your providers. If further education is needed, please contact ACE at audit.ed@cumedicine.us

Source/ Reference

Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 18 – Preventive and Screening Services