

Obstetric imaging precertification

Summary of change: Effective June 1, 2018, Amerigroup Community Care will require obstetric imaging services (CPT codes 76801-76817) for pregnant members who are not considered high risk to be performed in a free-standing facility. All obstetric imaging services performed in the outpatient hospital facility-based setting will require precertification.

Why is this change necessary?

A standard examination to provide a general anatomic fetal survey is adequate for most pregnancies. This type of exam will establish or confirm due dates, evaluate fetal presentation, amniotic fluid volume, heart activity, placental position, number of fetuses, and screen for gross anatomic abnormalities (abdomen, chest, extremities, head, face, neck, sex and spine).

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that in the absence of specific indications, the optimal time for an obstetric ultrasound examination is between 18-20 weeks of gestation because anatomically complex organs, such as the fetal heart and brain, can be imaged with sufficient clarity to allow detection of many major malformations.

Outpatient hospital facility-based obstetric imaging is medically necessary for pregnant members who are considered high risk and are being treated by a perinatologist for any of the following:

- Advanced maternal age:
 - Any woman over the age of 35 is considered advanced maternal age.
 - Genetic concerns are more common in this population of women (Down syndrome; extra copy of chromosome 21).
- High blood pressure (HBP):
 - Uncontrolled HBP can cause decreased blood flow and oxygen through the placenta to the fetus, placenta abruption, intrauterine growth restriction, maternal organ damage, premature delivery, or future cardiovascular disease.
- Increased blood glucose:
 - Uncontrolled elevated blood sugar increases the risk for congenital heart defects.
 - Larger babies have an increased risk for unstable blood glucose maintenance.
 - This can increase the risk of miscarriage, preterm delivery, growth restriction, and complications for both mom and baby.
- Multiple gestation:
 - Monitoring growing fetuses and their development is vital due to the increased risk of preterm delivery, lower weight babies and possible twin-to-twin transfusion.

- Any member with a current diagnosis of a mental health disorder taking any psychotropic medications, mood stabilizers, benzodiazepines, narcotics and all forms of antidepressants are at higher risk of complications.

What is the impact of this change?

Please submit clinical documentation to support a high-risk diagnosis.

Please use one of the following methods to request precertification:

- Phone: 1-800-454-3730
- Fax: 1-800-964-3627
- Web: <https://www.availity.com>

If you do not have a medical reason to refer the member to a hospital or there are not extenuating considerations that require a member to be treated at a hospital, the member should be referred to a free-standing facility.

What if I need assistance?

Participating provider listings change periodically. For the latest list, see the provider directory found at <https://providers.amerigroup.com/MD>.

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.