

## Medical Policy



An Independent Licensee of the  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

### **Title: First Trimester Detection of Aneuploidy Using Fetal Ultrasound Assessment of Nuchal Translucency Combined with Maternal Serum Assessment**

#### **Professional**

Original Effective Date: April 1, 2006

Revision Date(s): March 12, 2007

Current Effective Date: January 1, 2007

#### **Institutional**

Original Effective Date: April 1, 2006

Revision Date(s): March 12, 2007

Current Effective Date: January 1, 2007

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Fetal nuchal translucency refers to the ultrasound detection of subcutaneous edema in the fetal neck, and is measured as the maximal thickness of the sonolucent zone between the inner aspect of the fetal skin and the outer aspect of the soft tissue overlying the cervical spine or the occipital bone.

First-trimester screening, if accurate, can provide important information to the mother several weeks before it would be available with traditional second-trimester screening.

#### **POLICY**

Nuchal translucency combined with maternal serum PAPP-A and free B-hCG levels during the first trimester as a screening for women who are adequately counseled and desire information on the risk of having a child with chromosomal defects is considered medically necessary.

Nuchal translucency used alone as a screening for chromosomal defects, is considered experimental/investigational.

BCBSKS will allow reimbursement for nuchal translucency for those physicians certified for this procedure by the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

Measurement of the Nuchal Translucency is not part of the first trimester scan (76801 and 76802). When billing for both the first trimester scan and a Nuchal Translucency bill both the first trimester code (76801 - 76802) and 76815. Note that to bill for the first trimester scan, you must do all the components listed below

and the physician must request that the scan be done in addition to the nuchal translucency.

1. Determination of the number of gestational sacs
2. Fetal measurements
3. Survey of visible fetal anatomy
4. Assessment of the umbilical cord and placenta when visible
5. Qualitative assessment of amniotic fluid volume
6. Evaluation of maternal uterus and adnexa

### **CODING**

#### **REVENUE CODES**

030X

0402

#### **CPT**

76813	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, first trimester fetal nuchal translucency measurement, transabdominal or transvaginal approach; single or first gestation
76814	Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, first trimester fetal nuchal translucency measurement, transabdominal or transvaginal approach; each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
84163	Pregnancy-associated plasma protein-A (PAPP-A)
84702	Gonadotropin, Chorionic (hCG); quantitative

#### **Diagnosis**

**Diagnoses are otherwise subject to medical policy as stated above**

### **REVISIONS**

March 12, 2007 with effective date of January 1, 2007 and posted March 30, 2007	In "Coding" CPT section, deleted CPT codes 76801, 76802 and 76815 per Medical Director.
	In "Coding" CPT section, added new CPT codes 76813 and 76814 due to the 2007 CPT changes.

### **REFERENCES**

1. Haddow JE, Palomaki GE, Knight GJ et al. Screening of maternal serum for fetal Down's syndrome in the first trimester. N Engl J Med 1998; 338(14):955-61.

2. Mol BW, Lijmer JG, van der Meulen J et al. Effect of study design on the association between nuchal translucency measurement and Down syndrome. *Obstet Gynecol* 1999; 94(5 pt 2):864-9.
3. Platt LD, Greene N, Johnson A et al. Sequential pathways of testing after first-trimester screening for trisomy 21. *Obstet Gynecol* 2004; 104(4):661-6.
4. Snijders RJ, Thom EA, Zachary JM et al. First-trimester trisomy screening: nuchal translucency measurement training and quality assurance to correct and unify technique. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol* 2002; 19(4):353-9.
5. Spencer K. What is the true fetal loss rate in pregnancies affected by trisomy 21 and how does this influence whether first trimester detection rates are superior to those in the second trimester? *Prenat Diagn* 2001; 21(9):788-9.
6. Wald NJ, Rodeck C, Hackshaw AK et al. First and second trimester antenatal screening for Down's syndrome: the results of the serum, urine and ultrasound screening study (SURUSS). *J Med Screen* 2003; 10(2):56-104.
7. Wapner R, Thom E, Simpson JL et al. First-trimester screening for trisomies 21 and 18. *N Engl J Med* 2003; 349(15):1405-13.

#### **Government Agency; Medical Society; and other Authoritative Publications**

1. AAOG Committee Opinion. First trimester screening for fetal aneuploidy. No. 296, July 2004.
2. ACOG Practice Bulletin. Prenatal diagnosis of fetal chromosomal abnormalities. Number 27, 2001.
3. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), First-Trimester Detection of Down Syndrome Using Fetal Ultrasound Assessment of Nuchal Translucency Combined with Maternal Serum Assessment, policy # 4.01.14, 3-2005.

#### **Web Site**

1. [www.fetalmedicine.com](http://www.fetalmedicine.com)
2. <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00006445>
3. U.S. Preventive Services Taskforce. Guide to Clinical Preventive Services, 2nd ed. 1996. Screening for Down syndrome. Accessible at [hstat.nlm.nih.gov/hq/Hquest/db/local.gcps.cps/screen/Browse/s/35312/cmd/HF/action/GetText?IHR=CH4](http://hstat.nlm.nih.gov/hq/Hquest/db/local.gcps.cps/screen/Browse/s/35312/cmd/HF/action/GetText?IHR=CH4).