State and Federal mandates and health plan member contract language, including specific provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. To verify a member’s benefits, contact Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Customer Service.

The BCBSKS Medical Policies contained herein are for informational purposes and apply only to members who have health insurance through BCBSKS or who are covered by a self-insured group plan administered by BCBSKS. Medical Policy for FEP members is subject to FEP medical policy which may differ from BCBSKS Medical Policy.

The medical policies do not constitute medical advice or medical care. Treating health care providers are independent contractors and are neither employees nor agents of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas and are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment and medical advice.

If your patient is covered under a different Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan, please refer to the Medical Policies of that plan.
## Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals:</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Comparators</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Who are eligible for screening of bone mineral density based on risk factor assessment</td>
<td>Interventions of interest are: • Dual x-ray absorptiometry analysis of central sites (hip or spine)</td>
<td>Comparators of interest are: • Clinical risk assessment without bone mineral density testing</td>
<td>Relevant outcomes include: • Disease-specific survival • Morbid events • Functional outcomes • Health status measures • Quality of life • Hospitalizations • Medication use • Resource utilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals:</td>
<td>Interventions of interest are: • Ultrasound densitometry • Quantitative computed tomography • Dual x-ray absorptiometry analysis of peripheral sites</td>
<td>Comparators of interest are: • Dual x-ray absorptiometry analysis of central sites</td>
<td>Relevant outcomes include: • Disease-specific survival • Morbid events • Functional outcomes • Health status measures • Quality of life • Hospitalizations • Medication use • Resource utilization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DESCRIPTION

Bone mineral density (BMD) studies can be used to identify individuals with osteoporosis and monitor response to osteoporosis treatment, with the goal of reducing the risk of fracture. Bone density is most commonly evaluated with dual x-ray absorptiometry (DXA); other technologies are also available.

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to examine whether bone mineral density studies improve health outcomes in individuals at risk of osteoporotic fracture.

## BACKGROUND

### Bone Mineral Density

Risk factors for fracture include low bone mass, low bone strength, a personal history of fracture as an adult, or a history of fracture in a first-degree relative. Osteoporosis, defined as low bone mass leading to an increased risk of fragility fractures, is an extremely common disease in the elderly population due to age-related bone loss in both sexes and menopause-related bone loss in women. The World Health Organization
(WHO) has diagnostic thresholds for osteoporosis based on bone mineral density measurements compared with a T score, which is the standard deviation difference between an individual's BMD and that of a young-adult reference population. Conditions that can cause or contribute to osteoporosis include lifestyle factors such as low intake of calcium, high intake of alcohol or cigarette smoking, and thinness. Other risk factors for osteoporosis include certain endocrine, hematologic, gastrointestinal tract and genetic disorders, hypogonadal states, and medications.

BMD can be measured with a variety of techniques in a variety of central (ie, hip or spine) or peripheral (ie, wrist, finger, and heel) sites. While BMD measurements are predictive of fragility fractures at all sites, central measurements of the hip and spine are the most predictive. Fractures of the hip and spine (ie, vertebral fractures) are also considered to be the most clinically relevant. BMD is typically expressed as a T score.

The utility of screening BMD measurements can be established by demonstrating that screening identifies a population at increased risk of fracture and that, by treating those at-risk individuals, the rate of fractures is reduced thereby lowering fracture-related morbidity and mortality. These potential benefits of screening should outweigh the risks of screening (radiation exposure) or false positives (initiation of unnecessary treatment).

Osteoporosis Treatment
Treatment of osteoporosis includes both lifestyle measures (eg, increased intake of calcium and vitamin D, exercise, smoking cessation) and pharmacologic measures. Current pharmacologic options include bisphosphonates such as alendronate (ie, Fosamax), selective estrogen receptor modulators such as raloxifene (ie, Evista), the recombinant human parathyroid hormone teriparatide (ie, Forteo), and calcitonin. An updated 2014 systematic review funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality found good-quality evidence that bisphosphonates, denosumab, teriparatide, and raloxifene reduce fracture risk in postmenopausal women with BMD in the osteoporotic range and/or preexisting hip or vertebral fracture.1

The decision to perform bone density assessment should be based on an individual's fracture risk profile and skeletal health assessment. In addition to age, sex, and BMD, risk factors included in the WHO Fracture Risk Assessment (FRAX) Tool2 are:

- Low body mass index;
- Parental history of hip fracture;
- Previous fragility fracture in adult life (ie, occurring spontaneously or a fracture arising from trauma, which, in a healthy individual, would not have resulted in a fracture);
- Current smoking or 3 or more units of alcohol daily, where a unit is equivalent to a standard glass of beer (285 mL), a single measure of spirits (30 mL), a medium-sized glass of wine (120 mL), or 1 measure of an aperitif (60 mL);
- A disorder strongly associated with osteoporosis, which includes rheumatoid arthritis, type I (insulin-dependent) diabetes, osteogenesis imperfecta in adults,
untreated long-standing hyperthyroidism, hypogonadism or premature menopause (<45 years), chronic malnutrition or malabsorption, and chronic liver disease;

- Current exposure to oral glucocorticoids or exposure to oral glucocorticoids for more than 3 months at a dose of prednisolone 5 mg daily or more (or equivalent doses of other glucocorticoids).

**Measurement Tools**

Available diagnostic tools use either X-rays or ultrasound. X-ray based methods measure BMD. However, studies suggest that in addition to measuring structural aspects of the bone by assessing BMD, other mechanical features and elastic properties of the bone are also important to predict the risk of fractures. X-ray based methods cannot assess these properties and therefore use of alternative methodologies such as ultrasound densitometry and quantitative computed tomography have been explored. The most commonly used technologies are described next.

**Dual X-Ray Absorptiometry**

Dual x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) is probably the most commonly used technique to measure BMD because of its ease of use, low radiation exposure, and its ability to measure BMD at both the hip and spine. DXA can also be used to measure peripheral sites, such as the wrist and finger. DXA generates 2 x-ray beams of different energy levels to scan the region of interest and measures the difference in attenuation as the low- and high-energy beams pass through the bone and soft tissue. The low-energy beam is preferentially attenuated by bone, while the high-energy beam is attenuated by both bone and soft tissue. This difference in attenuation between the 2 beams allows for correction for the irregular masses of soft tissue, which surround the spine and hip, and therefore the measurement of bone density at those sites.

**Quantitative Computed Tomography**

Quantitative computed tomography (QCT) depends on the differential absorption of ionizing radiation by calcified tissue and is used for central measurements only. Compared with DXA, QCT is less readily available and associated with relatively high radiation exposure and relatively high cost. Analysis of previously obtained clinical computed tomography scans of the pelvis might provide an alternative method of assessing biomechanical bone strength.

**Ultrasound Densitometry**

Ultrasound densitometry is a technique for measuring BMD at peripheral sites, typically the heel but also the tibia and phalanges. Compared with osteoporotic bone, normal bone demonstrates higher attenuation of the ultrasound wave and is associated with a greater velocity of the wave passing through bone. Ultrasound densitometry has no radiation exposure, and machines may be purchased for use in an office setting.

These techniques dominate BMD testing. Single- and dual-photon absorptiometry and radiographic absorptiometry are now rarely used and may be considered obsolete.
REGULATORY STATUS

Devices that measure bone density have been cleared for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through the 510(k) process. Some examples are described in Table 1:

Table 1. FDA Cleared Devices to Measure Bone Density

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device Name</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>510(k) number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aria</td>
<td>GE Medical Systems</td>
<td>K180782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ge Lunar Dxa Bone Densitometers With Enc</td>
<td>GE Medical Systems</td>
<td>K161682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tbs Insight</td>
<td>Medimaps Group Sa</td>
<td>K152299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Energy (Se) Femur Exams</td>
<td>Hologic, Inc.</td>
<td>K130277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tbs Insight</td>
<td>Medimaps Group Sa</td>
<td>K121716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtuost</td>
<td>O.N. Diagnostics</td>
<td>K113725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accudxa2</td>
<td>Lone Oak Medical Technologies, Llc</td>
<td>K113616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrascan 650</td>
<td>Cyberlogic, Inc.</td>
<td>K161919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bindex Bi-2</td>
<td>Bone Index Finland, Ltd.</td>
<td>K161971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bindex Bi-100</td>
<td>Bone Index Finland, Ltd.</td>
<td>K152020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achilles</td>
<td>GE Medical Systems</td>
<td>K123238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beammed Sunlight Miniomni Bone Sonometer</td>
<td>Beam-Med Ltd</td>
<td>K110646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achilles</td>
<td>GE Medical Systems</td>
<td>K103633</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, some ultrasound bone sonometers have been approved by FDA through the premarket approval (PMA) process. One example is the Sahara® Clinical Bone Sonometer (Hologic), which received approval in March 1998. Its intended use is for quantitative ultrasound measurement of the calcaneus (heel bone), the results of which can be used in conjunction with other clinical risk factors as an aid in the diagnosis of osteoporosis and medical conditions leading to reduced bone density, and ultimately in the determination of fracture risk.

FDA product codes: KGI, MUA.


**POLICY**
Initial or repeat bone mineral density (BMD) measurement is not indicated unless the results will influence treatment decisions.

A. An initial measurement of central (hip/spine) BMD using dual x-ray absorptiometry may be considered medically necessary to assess fracture risk and the need for pharmacologic therapy in both women and men who are considered at risk for osteoporosis. BMD testing may be indicated under the following conditions:

1. Women age 65 and older, regardless of other risk factors;
2. Men age 70 and older, regardless of other risk factors;
3. Younger postmenopausal women about whom there is a concern based on their risk factors (see risk factors);
4. Men age 50-70 about whom there is a concern based on their risk factors (see risk factors);
5. Adults with a condition or taking a medication associated with low bone mass or bone loss, to include:
   a) Anorexia nervosa
   b) Chronic renal failure
   c) Hyperparathyroidism
   d) Prolonged immobilization
   e) Radiographic evidence of osteopenia
   f) Malignancies
   g) Organ transplantation
   h) Aluminum-containing antacids
   i) Anti-seizure medications (only some), such as Dilantin or phenobarbital
   j) Aromatase inhibitors such as Arimidex, Aromasin, and Femara
   k) Cancer chemotherapeutic drugs
   l) Cyclosporine A and FK506 (Tacrolimus)
   m) Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH), such as Lupron or Zoladex
   n) Heparin, chronic use
   o) Methotrexate
   p) Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), prescription strength (not OTC), taken chronically
   q) Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), such as Lexapro, Prozac, or Zoloft
   r) Tamoxifen (premenopausal use)
   s) Thyroid hormone in excess

Risk Factors (applies to A3 and A4)
In addition to age, sex, and BMD, risk factors included in the World Health Organization Fracture Risk Assessment (FRAX) Tool\(^1\) are:
1. Low body mass index (BMI of 20 or less);
2. Parental history of hip fracture;
3. Previous fragility fracture in adult life (i.e., occurring spontaneously or a fracture arising from trauma which, in a healthy individual, would not have resulted in a fracture);
4. Current smoking or alcohol 3 or more units per day, where a unit is equivalent to a standard glass of beer (285 mL), a single measure of spirits (30 mL), a medium-sized glass of wine (120 mL), or 1 measure of an aperitif (60 mL);
5. A disorder strongly associated with osteoporosis. These include rheumatoid arthritis, type I (insulin dependent) diabetes, osteogenesis imperfecta in adults, untreated long-standing hyperthyroidism, hypogonadism or premature menopause (<45 years), chronic malnutrition or malabsorption, and chronic liver disease;
6. Current exposure to oral glucocorticoids or the patient has been exposed to oral glucocorticoids for more than 3 months at a dose of prednisolone of 5 mg daily or more (or equivalent doses of other glucocorticoids).

B. Regular (not more frequent than every 2–3 years) serial measurements of central (hip/spine) BMD using dual x-ray absorptiometry to monitor treatment response may be considered medically necessary when the information will affect treatment decisions such as duration of therapy.

C. Repeat measurement of central (hip/spine) BMD using dual x-ray absorptiometry for individuals who do not require pharmacologic treatment may be considered medically necessary at an interval not more frequent than every 3–5 years; the interval depends on patient risk factors.

D. An initial measurement of central (hip/spine) BMD using dual x-ray absorptiometry may be considered medically necessary in patients who are to undergo hip resurfacing procedures.

E. Ultrasound densitometry is considered not medically necessary. As discussed further in the Rationale section, it is unknown whether this technology can be used to predict response to pharmacologic therapy (i.e., reduce fractures).

F. Quantitative Computed Tomography (QCT) is considered not medically necessary.

G. Peripheral measurement can identify patients with low bone mass, but does not predict response to pharmacologic therapy and is not a substitute for central DXA measurements. Therefore, central DXA (hip/spine) is required for both the initial diagnosis and repeat BMD assessments.
Peripheral measurement of BMD is considered **not medically necessary** except:
- when the hip/spine or hip/hip cannot be done or the patient is over the table limit for weight;
- for hyperparathyroidism, where the forearm is essential for diagnosis

**Policy Guidelines**
1. Ultrasound densitometry is an office-based technology. As discussed further in the Rationale section, it is unknown whether this technology can be used to predict response to pharmacologic therapy (ie, reduce fractures).
2. Dual x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) of axial central sites (ie, hip and spine) is the most commonly used technique, but peripheral (appendicular) DXA and quantitative computed tomography scanning are sometimes used, based on local availability. Peripheral measurement can identify patients with low bone mass but does not predict response to pharmacologic therapy and is not a substitute for central DXA measurements. Therefore, central DXA (hip/spine) is required for both the initial diagnosis and repeat bone mineral density (BMD) assessments.
3. In pediatric patients, total body calcium is preferred because it helps reduce following patients with growing bones. This applies to pediatric patients who are not skeletally mature as documented by nonclosure of growth plates (eg, 15 years of age or younger).

**RATIONALE**
This evidence review was created in 1995. Early versions of this evidence review were informed in part on 1998 guidelines from the National Osteoporosis Foundation and 2 TEC Assessments (1999, 2002). The evidence review has since been updated regularly with searches of the MEDLINE database. The most recent literature review was performed through October 1, 2018. Following is a summary of key literature to date.

Evidence reviews assess the clinical evidence to determine whether the use of technology improves the net health outcome. Broadly defined, health outcomes are the length of life, quality of life, and ability to function including benefits and harms. Every clinical condition has specific outcomes that are important to patients and managing the course of that condition. Validated outcome measures are necessary to ascertain whether a condition improves or worsens; and whether the magnitude of that change is clinically significant. The net health outcome is a balance of benefits and harms.

To assess whether the evidence is sufficient to draw conclusions about the net health outcome of a technology, two domains are examined: the relevance, and quality and credibility. To be relevant, studies must represent one or more intended clinical use of the technology in the intended population and compare an effective and appropriate alternative at a comparable intensity. For some conditions, the alternative will be supportive care or surveillance. The quality and credibility of the evidence depend on study design and conduct, minimizing bias and confounding that can generate incorrect findings. The randomized controlled trial is preferred to assess efficacy; however, in some circumstances, nonrandomized studies may be adequate. Randomized controlled trials are rarely large enough or long enough to capture less common
adverse events and long-term effects. Other types of studies can be used for these purposes and to assess generalizability to broader clinical populations and settings of clinical practice.

**Initial Measurement of Bone Mineral Density**

**Clinical Context and Therapy Purpose**
The purpose of BMD measurement in patients who have risk factors for osteoporosis is to assess bone health and guide treatment.

The question addressed in this evidence review is: Does BMD testing with dual x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) improve the net health outcome in individuals with risk factors for osteoporosis?

The following PICOTS were used to select literature to inform this review.

*Patients*
The relevant population of interest are individuals with risk factors for osteoporosis.

*Interventions*
The test being considered is BMD testing with central DXA.

*Comparators*
The following practices are currently being used to make treatment decisions: clinical risk factor assessment.

*Outcomes*
The general outcomes of interest are the occurrence of fractures and effects on quality of life.

*Timing*
Pharmacological treatment for osteopenia is recommended for three to five years. Monitoring of fractures may occur until the end of life; these are typically measured within ten years after screening.

*Setting*
The setting is outpatient primary care.

**Review of Evidence:** A 2018 systematic review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) evaluated the evidence on screening for osteoporosis. The review considered centrally measured DXA to be the reference standard against which other screening measures were evaluated. Randomized controlled trials included in the systematic review have shown that osteoporosis medications are effective at reducing fracture risk in postmenopausal women with BMD in the osteoporotic range identified by central DXA. A noted limitation of the review was that treatment studies relied on DXA BMD scores to enroll participants into trials and that risk factors beyond bone density, such as bone quality, contribute to osteoporotic fractures. Therefore, “approaches that rely on BMD measurement wholly or in part may not be the most accurate approaches for identifying patients at highest risk for osteoporotic fractures.”

**Section Summary: Initial Measurement of BMD**
Central DXA is the most widely accepted method for measuring BMD. BMD measurements with central DXA identify individuals at increased risk of fracture, and osteoporosis medications reduce
fracture risk in the population identified as osteoporotic by central DXA. Therefore, test results with initial central DXA have been successfully used to guide therapy.

**Repeat Measurement of BMD for Individuals Without Osteoporosis on Initial Screen**

**Clinical Context and Therapy Purpose**

The purpose of BMD measurement in patients without osteoporosis on the initial screen is to assess changes in bone health and guide treatment.

The question addressed in this evidence review is: Does repeat BMD testing with central DXA improve the net health outcome in individuals with risk factors for osteoporosis?

The following PICOTS were used to select literature to inform this review.

**Patients**
The relevant population of interest are individuals without osteoporosis on the initial screen.

**Interventions**
The test being considered is repeat BMD testing with central DXA.

**Comparators**
The following practices are currently being used to make treatment decisions: clinical risk factor assessment without BMD testing.

**Outcomes**
The general outcomes of interest are the occurrence of fractures and effects of fractures on quality of life.

**Timing**
Monitoring of fractures may occur until the end of life; these are typically measured within 10 years after screening.

**Setting**
The setting is outpatient primary care.

**Review of Evidence:** The 2018 USPSTF systematic review of the evidence on screening interval identified 2 studies with variable BMD that suggested no advantage to repeated bone measurement testing. However, prognostic modeling from other studies suggested that the optimal screening interval varies by baseline BMD, and that age and use of hormone replacement therapy might also influence optimal screening intervals. Review of evidence by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Southern California Evidence-Based Practice Center for the American College of Physicians identified moderate quality evidence that women do not require frequent monitoring, with 10% of women with normal or mildly osteopenic DXA scores progressing to osteopenia within 15 years.

**Section Summary: Repeat Measurement of BMD for Individuals Without Osteoporosis on Initial Screen**

Little research has been done on the frequency of BMD monitoring for osteoporosis. The available research has evaluated repeat measurement with central DXA. Evidence on whether
repeat measurements add to risk prediction compared with a single measurement is mixed. Although the optimal interval may differ depending on risk factors, current evidence does not support frequent monitoring.

**Serial Measurement of Central BMD to Monitor Response to Pharmacologic Treatment**

**Clinical Context and Therapy Purpose**
The purpose of BMD measurement in patients who are being evaluated for osteoporosis is to guide treatment.

The question addressed in this evidence review is: Does BMD testing with central DXA improve the net health outcome in individuals who are being treated for osteoporosis?

The following PICOTS were used to select literature to inform this review.

**Patients**
The relevant population of interest are individuals who are being treated for osteoporosis.

**Interventions**
The test being considered is repeat BMD testing with central DXA.

**Comparators**
The following practices are currently being used to make treatment decisions: duration of treatment as it relates to clinical risk assessment without BMD testing.

**Outcomes**
The general outcomes of interest are the occurrence of fractures and effects on quality of life.

**Timing**
Pharmacological treatment for osteopenia is recommended for three to five years. Monitoring of fractures may occur until the end of life; these are typically measured within ten years after screening.

**Setting**
The setting is outpatient primary care.

**Review of Evidence:** Several moderate quality studies included in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality report showed that fracture risk may be reduced with pharmacologic treatment even when BMD does not increase. In the Fracture Intervention Trial, 6459 women randomized to bisphosphonates or to placebo underwent annual bone density scans. A secondary analysis found an average within-person variation in BMD measurement of 0.013 g/cm², which was substantially higher than the average annual increase in BMD (0.0085 g/cm²) in the alendronate group.

**Section Summary: Serial Measurement of Central BMD to Monitor Response to Bisphosphonate Treatment**
There is no high-quality evidence to guide how often to monitor BMD during osteoporosis treatment. Within-person variation in measurement may exceed treatment effects, and fracture risk may be reduced in the absence of changes in BMD. Together, these results indicate that frequent (ie, every two years) repeat monitoring has low value.
Ultrasound Densitometry, or Quantitative Computed Tomography, or DXA Analysis Of Peripheral Sites

Clinical Context and Therapy Purpose
The purpose of bone density measurement with methods other than central DXA in patients who have risk factors for osteoporosis is to guide treatment.

The question addressed in this evidence review is: Does BMD testing with tests other than central DXA improve the net health outcome in individuals with risk factors for osteoporosis?

The following PICOTS were used to select literature to inform this review.

Patients
The relevant population of interest are individuals with risk factors for osteoporosis.

Interventions
The test being considered are bone tests other than central DXA.

Comparators
The following practices are currently being used to make treatment decisions: clinical risk factor assessment following DXA analysis of central sites.

Outcomes
The general outcomes of interest are the occurrence of fractures and effects on quality of life.

Timing
Pharmacological treatment for osteopenia is recommended for three to five years. Monitoring of fractures may occur until the end of life; these are typically measured within ten years after screening.

Setting
The setting is outpatient primary care.

Review of Evidence: In the review of evidence for the USPSTF, 10 studies were identified that compared calcaneal quantitative ultrasound to central DXA. Pooled estimates of area under the curves were 0.77 (95% CI, 0.72-0.81; 1969 participants) in women and 0.80 (95% CI, 0.67-0.94; 5142 participants) in men. Similar findings were observed for digital x-ray radiogrammetry, peripheral DXA, and radiographic absorptiometry. For predicting osteoporotic fractures, no meaningful differences in accuracy by type of bone test were observed. A study by Adams et al (2018) is consistent with the results of the USPSTF systematic review, showing the prediction of fracture with a “biomechanical” computed tomography analyzed on previously taken clinical computed tomography scans that were at least as good as DXA. No studies were identified that guided treatment based on computed tomography scan results.

Section Summary: Ultrasound Densitometry, or Quantitative Computed Tomography, or DXA Analysis of Peripheral Sites
In comparison with central DXA, other measures of bone health showed area under the curves around 0.80 for the identification of osteoporosis. No studies have shown that they can select
patients who benefit from treatment for osteoporosis. There is little to no evidence on the usefulness of repeat measurement of BMD using these techniques.

**SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE**

For individuals who are eligible for screening of BMD based on risk factor assessment who receive DXA analysis of central sites (hip or spine), the evidence includes systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials and cohort studies. The relevant outcomes are morbid events, functional outcomes, quality of life, hospitalizations, and medication use. Central DXA is the most widely accepted method for measuring BMD and is the reference standard against which other screening tests are evaluated. BMD measurements with central DXA identify individuals at increased risk of fracture, and osteoporosis medications reduce fracture risk in the population identified as osteoporotic by central DXA. Therefore, test results with initial central DXA can be used to guide therapy. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals without osteoporosis on initial screen who receive repeat DXA analysis of central sites (hip or spine), the evidence includes systematic reviews of large cohort and observational studies. The relevant outcomes are morbid events, functional outcomes, quality of life, hospitalizations, and medication use. Little research has been done on the frequency of BMD monitoring for osteoporosis. The available research has evaluated repeat measurement with central DXA. Evidence on whether repeat measurements add to risk prediction compared with a single measurement is mixed. Although the optimal interval may differ depending on risk factors, current evidence does not support repeat monitoring in patients with BMD on DXA in the normal range. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who are receiving pharmacologic treatment for osteoporosis who receive repeat DXA analysis of central sites (hip or spine), the evidence includes systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials and observational studies. The relevant outcomes are morbid events, functional outcomes, quality of life, hospitalizations, and medication use. There is no high-quality evidence to guide how often to monitor BMD during osteoporosis treatment. Within-person variation in measurement may exceed treatment effects, and fracture risk has been shown to be reduced in some treatment studies in the absence of changes in BMD. Together, these results suggest that frequent (ie, every two years) repeat monitoring has low value. It is unclear whether DXA at the end of the initial five years of therapy is sufficiently accurate to guide subsequent therapy. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who are eligible for screening of BMD based on risk factor assessment who receive ultrasound densitometry, or quantitative computed tomography, or DXA analysis of peripheral sites, the evidence includes observational studies and systematic reviews. The relevant outcomes are morbid events, functional outcomes, quality of life, hospitalizations, and medication use. In comparison with central DXA, other measures of bone health showed area under the curves around 0.80 for the identification of osteoporosis. These technologies are not commonly used for BMD measurements in practice, and no studies have shown that they can select patients who benefit from treatment for osteoporosis. There is little to no evidence on the usefulness of repeat measurement of BMD using these techniques. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.
CLINICAL INPUT FROM PHYSICIAN SPECIALTY SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS

While the various physician specialty societies and academic medical centers may collaborate with and make recommendations during this process, through the provision of appropriate reviewers, input received does not represent an endorsement or position statement by the physician specialty societies or academic medical centers, unless otherwise noted.

In response to requests, input was received from 4 physician specialty societies (7 reviewers) and 2 academic medical centers while this policy was under review in 2008. In addition, 7 unsolicited letters were received through 2 additional physician specialty societies. The reviewers agreed with the policy statement that an initial BMD test may be medically necessary. They also recommended an interval of 3 to 5 years between measurements in subjects who previously tested normal, depending on risk factors. Reviewers considered serial measurement of BMD important to guide treatment decisions (eg, continuing or changing medication).

Based on the consensus of clinical opinion regarding the value of the information provided by monitoring treatment response, serial BMD measurements (at least a 2-year interval) may be considered appropriate when this information will impact patient care. It should be noted that with the margin of error of BMD measurements with DXA, questions remain about the interval over which a clinically significant change can be observed. The minimal clinically significant change also raises concerns about the potential for overinterpretation of small fluctuations with repeat testing.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND POSITION STATEMENTS

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

The ACOG (2012, reaffirmed 2016) updated its guidelines on managing osteoporosis in women. The guidelines recommended that BMD screening should begin for all women at age 65 years. In addition, the ACOG recommended screening for women younger than 65 years in whom the Fracture Risk Assessment Tool indicates a 10-year risk of osteoporotic fracture of at least 9.3%. Alternatively, ACOG recommended BMD screening women younger than 65 or with any of the following risk factors (they are similar, but not identical to risk factors in the Fracture Risk Assessment Tool):

- Personal medical history of a fragility fracture
- Parental medical history of hip fracture
- Weight less than 127 lb
- Medical causes of bone loss (i.e., medications or disease)
- Current smoker
- Alcoholism
- Rheumatoid arthritis

For women who begin medication treatment for osteoporosis, a repeat BMD is recommended one to two years later to assess effectiveness. If BMD is improved or stable, additional BMD testing (in the absence of new risk factors) is not recommended. The guideline notes that it generally takes 18 to 24 months to document a clinically meaningful change in BMD and thus a 2-year interval after treatment initiation is preferred to 1 year.

- The guidelines do not specifically discuss repeat BMD screening for women who have a normal finding on the initial test.
Routine BMD screening is not recommended for newly menopausal women as a “baseline” screen.

National Osteoporosis Foundation
The NOF (2014) updated its practice guidelines. The NOF guidelines recommended that all postmenopausal women and men ages 50 and older be evaluated clinically for osteoporosis risk to determine the need for BMD testing.

Indications for BMD testing included:
- “Women age 65 and older and men age 70 and older” regardless of clinical risk factors
- “Postmenopausal women and men above age 50-69, based on risk factors profile”
- “Postmenopausal women and men age 50 and older who have had an adult age fracture…”
- “Adults with a condition … or taking a medication … associated with low bone mass or bone loss”
- The NOF stated that measurements for monitoring patients should be performed in accordance with medical necessity, expected response, and in consideration of local regulatory requirements. The NOF recommended that repeat BMD assessments generally agree with Medicare guidelines of every two years, but recognized that testing more frequently may be warranted in certain clinical situations.
- The NOF also indicated that:
  - “Central DXA dual x-ray absorptiometry, assessment of the hip or lumbar spine is the ‘gold standard’ for serial assessment of BMD. Biological changes in bone density are small compared to the inherent error in the test itself, and interpretation of serial bone density studies depends on appreciation of the smallest change in BMD that is beyond the range of error of the test. This least significant change (LSC) varies with the specific instrument used, patient population being assessed, measurement site, technologist’s skill with patient positioning and test analysis, and the confidence intervals used. Changes in the BMD of less than 3-6 % at the hip and 2-4 % at the spine from test to test may be due to the precision error of the testing itself.”

American College of Physicians
The guidelines from the American College of Physicians (2017) on the treatment of osteoporosis recommended against bone density monitoring during the 5-year pharmacologic treatment period of osteoporosis in women (weak recommendation, low-quality evidence). The American College of Physicians noted that data from several studies showed a reduction in fractures with pharmacologic treatment, even when BMD did not increase. In addition, current evidence “does not support frequent monitoring of women with normal bone density for osteoporosis, because data showed that most women with normal CSA scores did not progress to osteoporosis with 15 years.”

American College of Radiology
Appropriateness criteria from the American College of Radiology, updated in 2017, state that BMD measurement is indicated whenever a clinical decision is likely to be directly influenced by the result of the test. Indications for DXA of the lumbar spine and hip included but were not limited to the following patient populations:
- All women age 65 years and older and men age 70 years and older (asymptomatic screening)
Women younger than age 65 years who have additional risk for osteoporosis, based on medical history and other findings. Additional risk factors for osteoporosis include:
  a. Estrogen deficiency
  b. A history of maternal hip fracture that occurred after the age of 50 years
  c. Low body mass (less than 127 lb or 57.6 kg)
  d. History of amenorrhea (more than 1 year before age 42 years)

Women younger than age 65 years or men younger than age 70 years who have additional risk factors, including:
  a. Current use of cigarettes
  b. Loss of height, thoracic kyphosis

Individuals of any age with bone mass osteopenia, or fragility fractures on imaging studies such as radiographs, CT computed tomography, or MRI magnetic resonance imaging,

Individuals age 50 years and older who develop a wrist, hip, spine, or proximal humerus fracture with minimal or no trauma, excluding pathologic fractures

Individuals of any age who develop one or more insufficiency fractures

Individuals being considered for pharmacologic therapy for osteoporosis.

Individuals being monitored to:
  - Assess the effectiveness of osteoporosis drug therapy.
  - Follow-up medical conditions associated with abnormal BMD.

International Society for Clinical Densitometry
The 2013 update of the International Society for Clinical Densitometry guidelines recommended bone density testing in the following patients:

- Women age 65 and older
- For post-menopausal women younger than age 65 a bone density test is indicated if they have a risk factor for low bone mass fracture such as;
  - Low body weight
  - Prior fracture
  - High risk medication use
  - Disease or condition associated with bone loss.
- Women during the menopausal transition with clinical risk factors for fracture, such as low bone weight, prior fracture or high-risk medication use.
- Men aged 70 and older.
- Men under < 70 years ... if they have a risk factors for low bone mass such as;
  - Low body weight
  - Prior fracture
  - High risk medication use
  - Disease or condition associated with bone loss.
  - Adults with a fragility fracture.
  - Adults with a disease or condition associated with low bone mass or bone loss....
  - Anyone being considered for pharmacologic therapy.
  - Anyone being treated, to monitor treatment effect.
  - Anyone not receiving therapy in whom evidence of bone loss would lead to treatment.”

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists et al
The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and American College of Endocrinology (2016) issued updated joint guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of postmenopausal
osteoporosis. The guidelines listed the potential uses for BMD measurements in postmenopausal women as:

- “Screening for osteoporosis
- Establishing the severity of osteoporosis or bone loss...
- Determining fracture risk...
- Identifying candidates for pharmacologic intervention
- Assessing changes in bone density over time...
- Enhancing acceptance of, and perhaps adherence with, treatment
- Assessing skeletal consequences of diseases, conditions, or medications known to cause bone loss”

U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS
The USPSTF (2018) updated its recommendations on screening for osteoporosis with bone density measurements. The USPSTF recommended screening for osteoporosis in women aged 65 years or older and in postmenopausal women younger than 65 years at increased risk of osteoporosis. The supporting document notes there are multiple instruments to predict risk for low BMD, including the Fracture Risk Assessment Tool. The updated USPSTF recommendations stated that the scientific evidence is “insufficient” to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for osteoporosis in men. The Task Force did not recommend specific screening tests but said the most commonly used tests are DXA of the hip and lumbar spine and quantitative ultrasound of the calcaneus.

The USPSTF concluded the evidence base is sparse on screening interval. While two studies showed no advantage to repeated testing, other evidence suggested that the optimal screening interval may vary by baseline BMD, age, and use of hormone replacement therapy.

ONGOING AND UNPUBLISHED CLINICAL TRIALS
A search of ClinicalTrials.gov in November 2018 did not identify any ongoing or unpublished trials that would likely influence this review.

CODING
The following codes for treatment and procedures applicable to this policy are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member’s contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

CPT/HCPCS

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Ultrasound bone density measurement and interpretation, peripheral site(s), any method</td>
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<tr>
<td>77078</td>
<td>Computed tomography, bone mineral density study, 1 or more sites; axial skeleton (eg, hips, pelvis, spine)</td>
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<td>77080</td>
<td>Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), bone density study, 1 or more sites; axial skeleton (eg, hips, pelvis, spine)</td>
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<td>77081</td>
<td>Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), bone density study, 1 or more sites; appendicular skeleton (peripheral) (eg, radius, wrist, heel)</td>
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</table>
77085  Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), bone density study, 1 or more sites; axial skeleton (eg, hips, pelvis, spine), including vertebral fracture assessment
78350  Bone density (bone mineral content) study, 1 or more sites; single photon absorptiometry
78351  Bone density (bone mineral content) study, 1 or more sites; dual photon absorptiometry, 1 or more sites
0508T  Pulse-echo ultrasound bone density measurement resulting in indicator of axial bone mineral density, tibia
0554T  Bone strength and fracture risk using finite element analysis of functional data, and bone-mineral density, utilizing data from a computed tomography scan; retrieval and transmission of the scan data, assessment of bone strength and fracture risk and bone mineral density, interpretation and report
0555T  Bone strength and fracture risk using finite element analysis of functional data, and bone-mineral density, utilizing data from a computed tomography scan; retrieval and transmission of the scan data
0556T  Bone strength and fracture risk using finite element analysis of functional data, and bone-mineral density, utilizing data from a computed tomography scan; assessment of bone strength and fracture risk and bone mineral density
0557T  Bone strength and fracture risk using finite element analysis of functional data, and bone-mineral density, utilizing data from a computed tomography scan; interpretation and report
G0130  Single energy x-ray absorptiometry (SEXA) bone density study, one or more sites; appendicular skeleton (peripheral) (eg, radius, wrist, heel)

ICD-10 Diagnoses
C90.00  Multiple myeloma not having achieved remission
C90.01  Multiple myeloma in remission
E05.00  Thyrotoxicosis with diffuse goiter without thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.01  Thyrotoxicosis with diffuse goiter with thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.10  Thyrotoxicosis with toxic single thyroid nodule without thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.11  Thyrotoxicosis with toxic single thyroid nodule with thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.20  Thyrotoxicosis with toxic multinodular goiter without thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.21  Thyrotoxicosis with toxic multinodular goiter with thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.30  Thyrotoxicosis from ectopic thyroid tissue without thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.31  Thyrotoxicosis from ectopic thyroid tissue with thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.40  Thyrotoxicosis factitia without thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.41  Thyrotoxicosis factitia with thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.80  Other thyrotoxicosis without thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.81  Other thyrotoxicosis with thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E05.90  Thyrotoxicosis, unspecified without thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E21.0  Primary hyperparathyroidism
E21.1  Secondary hyperparathyroidism, not elsewhere classified
E21.2  Other hyperparathyroidism
E21.3  Hyperparathyroidism, unspecified
E23.6  Other disorders of pituitary gland
E24.0  Pituitary-dependent Cushing’s disease
E24.2  Drug-induced Cushing’s syndrome
E24.3  Ectopic ACTH syndrome
E24.8  Other Cushing’s syndrome
E28.310  Symptomatic premature menopause
E28.319  Asymptomatic premature menopause
E29.1  Testicular hypofunction
E34.51  Complete androgen insensitivity syndrome
E34.52  Partial androgen insensitivity syndrome
E46  Unspecified protein-calorie malnutrition
E64.0  Sequelae of protein-calorie malnutrition
E89.40  Asymptomatic postprocedural ovarian failure
E89.41  Symptomatic postprocedural ovarian failure
F10.20  Alcohol dependence, uncomplicated
F10.21  Alcohol dependence, in remission
F17.201  Nicotine dependence, unspecified, in remission
F17.210  Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated
F17.211  Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, in remission
F17.220  Nicotine dependence, chewing tobacco, uncomplicated
F17.221  Nicotine dependence, chewing tobacco, in remission
F17.290  Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, uncomplicated
F17.291  Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, in remission
F50.01  Anorexia nervosa, restricting type
F50.02  Anorexia nervosa, binge eating/purging type
G40.001  Localization-related (focal) (partial) idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with seizures of localized onset, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.009  Localization-related (focal) (partial) idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with seizures of localized onset, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.011  Localization-related (focal) (partial) idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with seizures of localized onset, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.019  Localization-related (focal) (partial) idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with seizures of localized onset, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.101  Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.109  Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.111  Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.119  Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.201  Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.209  Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.211  Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.219  Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.301  Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.309 Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.311 Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.319 Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.401 Other generalized epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.409 Other generalized epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.411 Other generalized epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.419 Other generalized epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.501 Epileptic seizures related to external causes, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.509 Epileptic seizures related to external causes, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.801 Other epilepsy, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.802 Other epilepsy, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.803 Other epilepsy, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.804 Other epilepsy, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.811 Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.812 Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.813 Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.814 Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.821 Epileptic spasms, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.822 Epileptic spasms, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.823 Epileptic spasms, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.824 Epileptic spasms, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.901 Epilepsy, unspecified, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.909 Epilepsy, unspecified, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.911 Epilepsy, unspecified, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.919 Epilepsy, unspecified, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.A01 Absence epileptic syndrome, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.A09 Absence epileptic syndrome, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.A11 Absence epileptic syndrome, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.A19 Absence epileptic syndrome, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.B01 Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, not intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.B09 Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, not intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.B11 Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.B19 Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, intractable, without status epilepticus
K86.0 Alcohol-induced chronic pancreatitis
K86.1 Other chronic pancreatitis
K90.0 Celiac disease
K90.49 Malabsorption due to intolerance, not elsewhere classified
K90.89 Other intestinal malabsorption
M05.411 Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of right shoulder
M05.412 Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of left shoulder
M05.421  Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of right elbow
M05.422  Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of left elbow
M05.431  Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of right wrist
M05.432  Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of left wrist
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M05.461  Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of right knee
M05.462  Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of left knee
M05.471  Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of right ankle and foot
M05.472  Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of left ankle and foot
M05.49   Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis of multiple sites
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M05.521  Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis of right elbow
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M05.559  Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis of unspecified hip
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M05.562  Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis of left knee
M05.571  Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis of right ankle and foot
M05.572  Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis of left ankle and foot
M05.59   Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis of multiple sites
M05.711  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of right shoulder without organ or systems involvement
M05.712  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of left shoulder without organ or systems involvement
M05.721  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of right elbow without organ or systems involvement
M05.722  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of left elbow without organ or systems involvement
M05.731  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of right wrist without organ or systems involvement
M05.732  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of left wrist without organ or systems involvement
M05.741  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of right hand without organ or systems involvement
M05.742  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of left hand without organ or systems involvement
M05.751  Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of right hip without organ or systems involvement
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<td>Other specified rheumatoid arthritis, left hand</td>
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<td>M06.851</td>
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<td>M06.852</td>
<td>Other specified rheumatoid arthritis, left hip</td>
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<td>M06.861</td>
<td>Other specified rheumatoid arthritis, right knee</td>
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<td>M06.862</td>
<td>Other specified rheumatoid arthritis, left knee</td>
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<tr>
<td>M06.871</td>
<td>Other specified rheumatoid arthritis, right ankle and foot</td>
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<tr>
<td>M06.872</td>
<td>Other specified rheumatoid arthritis, left ankle and foot</td>
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<td>M06.88</td>
<td>Other specified rheumatoid arthritis, vertebrae</td>
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<td>M06.89</td>
<td>Other specified rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>M81.0</td>
<td>Age-related osteoporosis without current pathological fracture</td>
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<td>M81.6</td>
<td>Localized osteoporosis [Lequesne]</td>
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<td>M81.8</td>
<td>Other osteoporosis without current pathological fracture</td>
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<td>M85.812</td>
<td>Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, left shoulder</td>
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<td>M85.811</td>
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M85.821  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, right upper arm
M85.822  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, left upper arm
M85.831  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, right forearm
M85.832  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, left forearm
M85.841  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, right hand
M85.842  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, left hand
M85.851  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, right thigh
M85.852  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, left thigh
M85.861  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, right lower leg
M85.862  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, left lower leg
M85.871  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, right ankle and foot
M85.872  Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, left ankle and foot
M85.88   Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, other site
M85.89   Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, multiple sites
M85.9   Disorder of bone density and structure, unspecified
N18.2   Chronic kidney disease, stage 2 (mild)
N18.3   Chronic kidney disease, stage 3 (moderate)
N18.4   Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 (severe)
N18.5   Chronic kidney disease, stage 5
N18.6   End stage renal disease
N18.9   Chronic kidney disease, unspecified
N95.8   Other specified menopausal and perimenopausal disorders
Q78.0   Osteogenesis imperfecta
R56.1   Post traumatic seizures
S22.000A Wedge compression fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.000B Wedge compression fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.000D Wedge compression fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing.
S22.000G Wedge compression fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.000K Wedge compression fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.000S Wedge compression fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.001A Stable burst fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.001B Stable burst fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.001D Stable burst fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.001G Stable burst fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.001K Stable burst fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.001S Stable burst fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.002A Unstable burst fracture of unspecified thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S22.018D Other fracture of first thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.018G Other fracture of first thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.018K Other fracture of first thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.018S Other fracture of first thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.020A Wedge compression fracture of second thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.020B Wedge compression fracture of second thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.020D Wedge compression fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.020G Wedge compression fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.020K Wedge compression fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.020S Wedge compression fracture of second thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.021A Stable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.021B Stable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.021D Stable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.021G Stable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.021K Stable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.021S Stable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.022A Unstable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.022B Unstable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.022D Unstable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.022G Unstable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.022K Unstable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.022S Unstable burst fracture of second thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.028A Other fracture of second thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.028B Other fracture of second thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.028D Other fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.028G Other fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.028K Other fracture of second thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.028S Other fracture of second thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.030A Wedge compression fracture of third thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S22.041B  Stable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.041D  Stable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.041G  Stable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.041K  Stable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.041S  Stable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.042A  Unstable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.042B  Unstable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
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S22.042G  Unstable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
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S22.042S  Unstable burst fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.048A  Other fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S22.048S  Other fracture of fourth thoracic vertebra, sequela
S22.050A  Wedge compression fracture of T5-T6 vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.050B  Wedge compression fracture of T5-T6 vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
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S22.052S  Unstable burst fracture of T5-T6 vertebra, sequela
S22.058A  Other fracture of T5-T6 vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S22.058S  Other fracture of T5-T6 vertebra, sequela
S22.060A  Wedge compression fracture of T7-T8 vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.060B  Wedge compression fracture of T7-T8 vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
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S22.060G  Wedge compression fracture of T7-T8 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
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S22.060S  Wedge compression fracture of T7-T8 vertebra, sequela
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S22.062K  Unstable burst fracture of T7-T8 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.062S  Unstable burst fracture of T7-T8 vertebra, sequela
S22.068A  Other fracture of T7-T8 thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.068B  Other fracture of T7-T8 thoracic vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.068D  Other fracture of T7-T8 thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.068G  Other fracture of T7-T8 thoracic vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
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S22.081G Stable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.081K Stable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.081S Stable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, sequela
S22.082A Unstable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.082B Unstable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.082D Unstable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.082G Unstable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.082K Unstable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.082S Unstable burst fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, sequela
S22.088A Other fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S22.088B Other fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S22.088D Other fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S22.088G Other fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S22.088K Other fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S22.088S Other fracture of T11-T12 vertebra, sequela
S32.000A Wedge compression fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.000B Wedge compression fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.000D Wedge compression fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.000G Wedge compression fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.000K Wedge compression fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.000S Wedge compression fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.001A Stable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.001B Stable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.001D Stable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.001G Stable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.001K Stable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.001S Stable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.002A Unstable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S32.002D  Unstable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.002G  Unstable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.002K  Unstable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.002S  Unstable burst fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, sequela
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S32.008D  Other fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
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S32.008S  Other fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, sequela
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S32.009K  Unspecified fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.009S  Unspecified fracture of unspecified lumbar vertebra, sequela
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S32.010G  Wedge compression fracture of first lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.010K  Wedge compression fracture of first lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
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S32.011D  Stable burst fracture of first lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.011G  Stable burst fracture of first lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.011K  Stable burst fracture of first lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
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<td>Unstable burst fracture of first lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion</td>
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S32.022S  Unstable burst fracture of second lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.028A  Other fracture of second lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.028B  Other fracture of second lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.028D  Other fracture of second lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.028G  Other fracture of second lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.028K  Other fracture of second lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.028S  Other fracture of second lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.030A  Wedge compression fracture of third lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.030B  Wedge compression fracture of third lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.030D  Wedge compression fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.030G  Wedge compression fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.030K  Wedge compression fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.030S  Wedge compression fracture of third lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.031A  Stable burst fracture of third lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S32.031G  Stable burst fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.031K  Stable burst fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.031S  Stable burst fracture of third lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.032A  Unstable burst fracture of third lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S32.032D  Unstable burst fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
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S32.032K  Unstable burst fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.032S  Unstable burst fracture of third lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.038A  Other fracture of third lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S32.038G  Other fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.038K  Other fracture of third lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.038S  Other fracture of third lumbar vertebra, sequela
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<td>Wedge compression fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion</td>
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S32.050S  Wedge compression fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.051A  Stable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.051B  Stable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
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S32.051K  Stable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.051S  Stable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.052A  Unstable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S32.052D  Unstable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.052G  Unstable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.052K  Unstable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.052S  Unstable burst fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.058A  Other fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.058B  Other fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.058D  Other fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.058G  Other fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.058K  Other fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.058S  Other fracture of fifth lumbar vertebra, sequela
S32.110A  Nondisplaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.110B  Nondisplaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.110D  Nondisplaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.110G  Nondisplaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.110K  Nondisplaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.110S  Nondisplaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.111A  Minimally displaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
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S32.111D  Minimally displaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.111G  Minimally displaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.111K  Minimally displaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.111S  Minimally displaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.112A  Severely displaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.112B  Severely displaced Zone I fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for open fracture
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S32.131K  Minimally displaced Zone III fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.131S  Minimally displaced Zone III fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.132A  Severely displaced Zone III fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.132B  Severely displaced Zone III fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.132D  Severely displaced Zone III fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.132G  Severely displaced Zone III fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.132K  Severely displaced Zone III fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.132S  Severely displaced Zone III fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.14X   A Type 1 fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.14X   B Type 1 fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.14X   D Type 1 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.14X   G Type 1 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.14X   K Type 1 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.14X   S Type 1 fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.15X   A Type 2 fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.15X   B Type 2 fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.15X   D Type 2 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.15X   G Type 2 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.15X   K Type 2 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.15X   S Type 2 fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.16X   A Type 3 fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.16X   B Type 3 fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.16X   D Type 3 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.16X   G Type 3 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.16X   K Type 3 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.16X   S Type 3 fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.17X   A Type 4 fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.17X   B Type 4 fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.17X   D Type 4 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.17X   G Type 4 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.17X   K Type 4 fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.17X   S Type 4 fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.19X   A Other fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.19X   B Other fracture of sacrum, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.19X   D Other fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.19X   G Other fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.19X   K Other fracture of sacrum, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.19X   S Other fracture of sacrum, sequela
S32.2XX   A Fracture of coccyx, initial encounter for closed fracture
S32.2XX   B Fracture of coccyx, initial encounter for open fracture
S32.2XX   D Fracture of coccyx, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
S32.2XX   G Fracture of coccyx, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
S32.2XX   S Fracture of coccyx, sequela
S32.2XXK Fracture of coccyx, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
S32.2XXS Fracture of coccyx, sequela
Z48.21 Encounter for aftercare following heart transplant
Z48.22 Encounter for aftercare following kidney transplant
Z48.23 Encounter for aftercare following liver transplant
Z48.24 Encounter for aftercare following lung transplant
Z48.280 Encounter for aftercare following heart-lung transplant
Z79.3 Long term (current) use of hormonal contraceptives
Z79.51 Long term (current) use of inhaled steroids
Z79.52 Long term (current) use of systemic steroids
Z79.891 Long term (current) use of opiate analgesic
Z79.899 Other long term (current) drug therapy
Z94.0 Kidney transplant status
Z94.1 Heart transplant status
Z94.2 Lung transplant status
Z94.3 Heart and lungs transplant status
Z94.4 Liver transplant status
Z94.5 Skin transplant status
Z94.6 Bone transplant status

REVISIONS
10-19-2009 The Description section updated.
The Policy section was updated. The previous policy language was:

1. A baseline, central (not peripheral) bone density measurement is considered medically necessary if ONE of the following criteria (a. through g.) is met:
   a. ALL Postmenopausal (amenorrheic for longer than six (6) months) women under age 65 who have one or more risk factors for osteoporotic fracture (besides menopause) listed below:
      1) Personal history of recent fracture
      2) First degree relative with history of osteoporosis
      3) Currently smokes tobacco
      4) Excessive alcohol intake (history of or current use)
   b. All women aged 65 and older, regardless of additional risk factors
   c. Postmenopausal women (amenorrheic for longer than six (6) months) who are considering therapy for osteoporosis when results will facilitate treatment decisions.
   d. Repeat or follow-up central bone density measurement will be considered medically necessary if at least 23 months have passed since last bone density measurements.
   e. Primary hyperparathyroidism (male or female)
   f. Receiving long-term glucocorticoid therapy equivalent to or greater than 7.5 mg/day of prednisone, for three months or longer (male or female).
   g. Bone density measurement will be considered for the following conditions (male or female):
      1) Anorexia nervosa
      2) Calcitonin deficiency
      3) Chemotherapeutic agents which affect bone density
      4) Chronic renal failure
      5) Chronic use of anti-convulsants (particularly Dilantin)
      6) Chronic use of heparin
      7) Cushing’s Syndrome
8) Fragility fracture
9) Hypersecretion of calcitonin
10) Hyperthyroidism or Hypothyroidism
11) Hypogonadism
12) Lupron therapy in men
13) Malabsorption Syndromes
14) Malignancies (multiple myeloma)
15) Organ transplantation
16) Prolonged amenorrhea (six (6) months duration or longer
17) Prolonged immobilization
18) Radiologic evidence of osteopenia
19) Rheumatoid arthritis
20) Untreated premature menopause

2. Bone density measurement is considered NOT medically necessary in the following:
   a. Routine screening for osteoporosis or osteoporosis risk when criteria above are not met.
   b. Individuals who do not intend to use hormonal or non-hormonal therapy
   c. When the results obtained will not influence treatment decisions.
   d. Peripheral bone density studies (77079, 77081, 76977 and G0130)
   e. Bone density measurements done at peripheral sites with tests such as peripheral dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (pDEXA) of the forearm, radiographic absorptiometry of the phalanges, or ultrasound of the heel may not change reliably with treatment. Central measurements of the hip and spine are more predictive of fracture than peripheral sites.

3. Osteopenia - Bone density Testing will be allowed if the doctor indicates osteopenia in the records or on the claim.

4. Sahara Ultrasound System - Sahara Ultrasound System Bone density Testing system will be allowed once per year, based on the same criteria as the DEXA, utilizing Procedure Code 76977 (ultrasound bone density measurement and interpretation, peripheral site(s), any method). The procedure is applicable for the above Diagnosis Code.

Procedure code 77080 is to be processed as preventive care. Categories of qualified individuals include ONE of the following:
   • An estrogen-deficient woman at clinical risk for osteoporosis
   • An individual with vertebral abnormalities
   • An individual receiving long-term glucocorticoids (steroid) therapy
   • An individual with primary hyperparathyroidism, or
   • An individual being monitored to assess the response to or efficacy of an approved osteoporosis drug therapy.

UTILIZATION
1. Coverage for follow-up bone mass measurements will be limited to only one measurement every two (2) years for members who receive coverage of bone mass measurements.
2. Follow-up bone mass measurements performed more frequently for pathological diagnosis may be covered when medically necessary.

The policy updates primarily pertained to the following:
   • More clearly identified men as eligible for BMD measurement and added criteria.
   • Liberalized the risk factor criteria for which younger postmenopausal women are eligible for BMD measurement.
   • Provides peripheral measurement of BMD in two situations, when the hip/spine or hip/hip cannot be done or the patient is over the table limit for weight and for hyperparathyroidism, where the forearm is essential for diagnosis.
- Increased the repeat measurement time frame from "at least 23 months" to "(not more frequent than every 2-3 years)"...when the information will affect treatment decisions such as duration of therapy" and "not more frequent than every 3-5 years, depending on patient risk factors...for individuals who previously tested normal".
- Removed indication of "Sahara Ultrasound System Bone Density Testing system will be allowed once per year, based on the same criteria as the DEXA...", on the 2003 decision of the Family Practice, OB/GYN, and Internal Medicine Liaison Committees to eliminate eligibility of peripheral bone density studies.

In the Coding section:
- Added CPT/HCPCS codes: 77079, 77081, 77083, 78350, G0130
- Added Diagnoses codes: 244.8, 244.9, 627.2, 627.3, 627.8, 627.9, V07.4, V49.81, V58.69

05-13-2011 Rationale section updated.
Reference section updated.

12-09-2011 In the Coding section:
- Added Diagnoses code: 250.1, 259.5, 263.9, 303.9, 305.1, 345.00-345.91, 577.0, 577.1, 579.0, 579.8, 756.51
- Removed CPT code: 77082.
- Removed Diagnosis code: V82.81.
Updated the Reference section.

04-13-2012 Updated the Description section.

In the Policy section:
- In Item A, Risk Factors, #7, inserted the following:
  "o. chronic use of medications that can cause bone loss
  • Aluminum-containing antacids
  • Anti-seizure medications (only some) such as Dilantin or Phenobarbital
  • Aromatase inhibitors such as Arimidex, Aromasin, and Femara
  • Cancer chemotherapeutic drugs
  • Cyclosporine A and FK506 (Tacrolimus)
  • Glucocorticoids such as cortisone and prednisone
  • Gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH) such as Lupron, Zoladex
  • Heparin (chronic use)
  • Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) prescription strength (not OTC) taken chronically
  • Selective Serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) such as Lexapro, Prozac, Zoloft
  • Tamoxifen (premenopausal use)
  • Thyroid hormone in excess"
- In Item A, Risk Factors, #7, moved "chronic use of anti-convulsants (particularly Dilantin)" and "chronic use of heparin" to Item A, Risk Factors, #7, o, "Chronic use of medications that can cause bone loss."
- In Item A, Risk Factors, #8 "Current exposure to oral glucocorticoids, or the patient has been exposed to oral glucocorticoids for more than 3 months at a dose of prednisone of 5 mg daily or more (or equivalent doses of other glucocorticoids)." has been included in #7, o.
- In Item A, Risk Factors, #7, added "p. pediatric patients with malabsorption disorders"
- Removed Item G, "In pediatric patients, total body calcium is preferred because it helps reduce the issue of following patients with growing bones. This applies to pediatric patients who are not skeletally mature as documented by non-closure of growth plates (e.g., 15 years of age or younger)."
- Added "E. Quantitative Computed Tomography (QCT) is considered not medically necessary."
- Added "G. For Medroxyprogesterone acetate, the package insert contains a box warning about osteoporosis. However, Up to Date notes that while use of Medroxyprogesterone acetate is associated with decreased mineral density in current users, the effect is mostly
 reversed after Medroxyprogesterone acetate is stopped. Studies have not shown an increase risk of bone fractures in women who have used Medroxyprogesterone acetate in the past, therefore BMD is considered not medically necessary.”

In the Coding section:
- Removed CPT codes: 77079, 77083
- Removed Dx codes: 244.1, 244.2, 244.3, 244.8, 244.9, 250.1, 256.39, 259.5, 303.9, 577.0, 585.1, 627.2, 627.3, 627.8, 627.9, 733.10-733.16, 733.19, 733.90, V07.4, V42.2, V42.5, V49.81
- Added Dx codes: 259.50-259.52, 577.9, 303.90-303.93, 780.33, 805.2, 805.4, 805.6, 259.50-259.52, 577.9, 303.90-303.93, 780.33, 805.2, 805.4, 805.6,

Reference section updated.

10-04-2013
Updated Description section.

In Policy section:
- In Item A, Risk Factors, #7m, removed "(multiple myeloma)".
- In Item A, Risk Factors, #7o, added "methotrexate"

In Coding section:
- Added ICD-10 Diagnosis codes *(Effective October 1, 2014)*

Updated Rationale section.

Updated Reference section.

05-13-2015
Updated Description section.

In Policy section:
- Added "Policy Guidelines,
  1. A 2011 joint position statement from the International Society for Clinical Densitometry and the International Osteoporosis Foundation includes the official position that FRAX with BMD predicts risk of fracture better than clinical risk factors or BMD alone.(2) In addition, the joint position statement states that measurements other than BMD or T score at the femoral neck by DXA are not recommended for use with FRAX.
  2. The FRAX tool does not include a recommendation about which patients to further assess or treat. The FRAX website(1) states that this is a matter of clinical judgment and recommendations may vary by country.
  3. In pediatric patients, total body calcium is preferred because it helps reduce the issue of following patients with growing bones. This applies to pediatric patients who are not skeletally mature as documented by nonclosure of growth plates (e.g., 15 years of age or younger)."

Updated Rationale section.

Updated References section.

07-08-2015
In Coding section:
- Added ICD-9 code 733.90.
- Added ICD-10 codes M85.812, M85.811, M85.821, M85.822, M85.831, M85.832, M85.841, M85.842, M85.851, M85.852, M85.861, M85.862, M85.871, M85.872, M85.88, M85.89, M85.9

In Revision section:
- Revised 10-04-2013, changed 2nd table row, "In Coding section" to "In Policy section".

12-08-2015
Updated Description section.

In Policy section:
- In Item A, removed previous "Risk Factors" and added current FRAX information.
- In Item A 5, previous "Risk Factors" not noted in current FRAX information have been added.
- In Item C, removed "previously tested normal" and "does", and added "do" to read, "Repeat measurement of central (hip/spine) BMD for individuals who do not require pharmacologic treatment may be considered medically necessary at an interval not more frequent than every 3-5 years; the interval depends on patient risk factors."
- Removed Item G.
- In Policy Guidelines, removed previous Items 1 and 2.
  Updated Rationale section.
  Updated References section.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05-25-2016</td>
<td>Under title of policy, removed &quot;See also: Vertebral Fracture Assessment with Densitometry&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-01-2016</td>
<td>In Coding section:</td>
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<td>- Added CPT code: 77085</td>
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<td>04-12-2017</td>
<td>Updated Description section.</td>
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<td>In Policy section:</td>
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</table>
|            | - In Item A, added "central" and "using dual x-ray absorptiometry" and removed "at the" to read, "An initial measurement of central (hip/spine) BMD using dual x-ray absorptiometry may be considered medically necessary to assess fracture risk and the need for pharmacologic therapy in both women and men who are considered at risk for osteoporosis. BMD testing may be indicated under the following conditions:"
|            | - In Item B, added "(hip/spine)" and "using dual x-ray absorptiometry" to read, "Regular (not more frequent than every 2-3 years) serial measurements of central (hip/spine) BMD using dual x-ray absorptiometry to monitor treatment response may be considered medically necessary when the information will affect treatment decisions such as duration of therapy."
|            | - In Item C, added "using dual x-ray absorptiometry" to read, "Repeat measurement of central (hip/spine) BMD using dual x-ray absorptiometry for individuals who do not require pharmacologic treatment may be considered medically necessary at an interval not more frequent than every 3-5 years; the interval depends on patient risk factors."
|            | - Added new Item D, "An initial measurement of central (hip/spine) BMD using dual x-ray absorptiometry may be considered medically necessary in patients who are to undergo hip resurfacing procedures."
|            | - In Policy Guidelines, added new Items 1 and 2 (previous Item 1 now Item 3). |
|            | Updated Rationale section.                                             |
|            | Updated References section.                                            |
|            | Updated Description section.                                           |
|            | Updated Rationale section.                                             |
|            | In Coding section:                                                     |
|            | - Added CPT code: 0508T.                                                |
|            | - Removed ICD-9 codes.                                                 |
|            | Updated References section.                                            |
| 07-01-2019 | In Coding section:                                                     |
|            | - Added new CPT codes: 0554T, 0555T, 0556T, 0557T.                     |

**REFERENCES**

5. Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Technology Evaluation Center (TEC). Ultrasonography of peripheral sites for diagnosing and selecting patients for pharmacologic treatment for osteoporosis. TEC Assessments. 2002;Volume 17:Tab 5. PMID


Other References
1. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Internal Medicine Liaison Committee, July 2003; August 2014.