

Coding/Billing Tips

Study name	Billing Code
Limited Echo	93308-26
Limited Renal	76775-26
Ascites Evaluation	76705-26
Ultrasound Guidance for Needle Placement	76942-26
Bladder Sonography	76857-26

-26 modifier: billing for professional component, ie: is typically reported by the physician for professional services and includes interpretation of diagnostic tests/studies with preparation of a separate distinctly identifiable signed written report.

-76 modifier defines a repeat procedure by the same physician on the same date of service or patient session. For example, if a patient with blunt abdominal trauma and a negative initial thoracoabdominal trauma study ("FAST" exam) then later becomes hemodynamically unstable, a repeat examination may be warranted. A 76705-26,76 (limited abdominal exam, professional component; repeat examination by same physician) would be coded.

-77 Repeat Procedure by Another Physician: defines a repeat procedure by another physician on the same date of service or patient session. For coding purposes "another physician" is a physician in a different specialty or one who works for a different group/employer. When an ultrasound procedure is repeated by another physician, the first exam would not require a -77 modifier (ie, indicating the exam was subsequently repeated). The second exam would require use of the -77 modifier and assumes that the second physician was aware that his/hers was a repeat examination

Ultrasound Documentation Requirements

Procedure Specific Requirements:

1. "A written interpretation and report must be completed for each test performed and must be maintained in the patient's medical record."

2. "Medical record documentation must indicate the medical necessity [of the diagnostic test]."

Indicating the medical necessity is essential for reimbursement and must be included in the documentation (see IV. B. Medical Necessity)

3. "This report must describe the structures or organs studied and supply an interpretation of the findings."

Source: "EMERGENCY ULTRASOUND CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT".
Ultrasound Section, American College of Emergency Physicians. Hoffenberg et Al.