

Medical Policy

Bone Mineral Density Studies (Commercial)



POLICY NUMBER	LAST REVIEW DATE	APPROVED BY
MG.MM.RA.10.dC2	08/12/2022	MPC (Medical Policy Committee)

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS MEDICAL POLICY:

Property of ConnectiCare, Inc. All rights reserved. The treating physician or primary care provider must submit to ConnectiCare, Inc. the clinical evidence that the patient meets the criteria for the treatment or surgical procedure. Without this documentation and information, ConnectiCare will not be able to properly review the request for prior authorization. This clinical policy is not intended to pre-empt the judgment of the reviewing medical director or dictate to health care providers how to practice medicine. Health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering appropriate care. The clinical review criteria expressed below reflects how ConnectiCare determines whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary. ConnectiCare established the clinical review criteria based upon a review of currently available clinical information (including clinical outcome studies in the peer-reviewed published medical literature, regulatory status of the technology, evidence-based guidelines of public health and health research agencies, evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations, views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and other relevant factors). ConnectiCare, Inc. expressly reserves the right to revise these conclusions as clinical information changes, and welcomes further relevant information. Identification of selected brand names of devices, tests and procedures in a medical coverage policy is for reference only and is not an endorsement of any one device, test or procedure over another. Each benefit plan defines which services are covered. The conclusion that a particular service or supply is medically necessary does not constitute a representation or warranty that this service or supply is covered and/or paid for by ConnectiCare, as some plans exclude coverage for services or supplies that ConnectiCare considers medically necessary. If there is a discrepancy between this guideline and a member's benefits plan, the benefits plan will govern. In addition, coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of the State of CT and/or the Federal Government. Coverage may also differ for our Medicare members based on any applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) coverage statements including including National Coverage Determinations (NCD), Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) and/or Local Medical Review Policies(LMRP). All coding and web site links are accurate at time of publication.

Criteria: Effective 9/1/2020

Requests will be considered using Milliman Clinical Care Guidelines (MCGs). Guidelines are developed using publications that have been assessed in terms of quality, utility, and relevance. Preference is given to publications that:

1. Are designed with rigorous scientific methodology.
2. Are published in higher-quality journals (e.g., journals that are read and cited most often within their field).
3. Address an aspect of specific importance to the guideline in question (admission criteria, length of stay).
4. Represent an update or contain new data or information not reflected in the current guideline.

***Note: Applicability includes transgender and gender non-conforming members, as appropriate.**

[Click Here: ConnectiCare-MCG Clinical Criteria](#)

[A-0093 AC ACG Bone Density Study, Central, Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry \(DXA\)](#)

[A-0094 AC ACG Bone Density Study, Peripheral, Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry \(DXA\)](#)

[A-0095 AC ACG Ultrasound Bone Density Measurement, Heel \(Calcaneal\)](#)

[A-0538 AC ACG Bone Density, CT](#)

Additional Limitations/Exclusions associated with bone mineral density (BMD) Studies:

[CMS Medicare National Coverage Determination \(NCD\) for Bone \(Mineral\) Density Studies \(150.3\) Version 2](#)

The following are considered investigational, as effectiveness has not been established:

1. (Bone density measurement using pulse-echo ultrasound (e.g., Bindex® point-of-care hand-held device) (CPT 0508T)
2. Bone strength and fracture risk using finite element analysis of functional data, and bone-

mineral density, utilizing data from a computed tomography scan (CPT 0554T, 0555T, 0556T, 0557T, 0558T)

On an annual basis, each guideline undergoes external review by clinically active experts (e.g., board-certified specialist physicians without stated financial conflicts of interest) to confirm the clinical appropriateness, accuracy, validity, and applicability of each guideline.

Review History

DATE	REVISION
08/12/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Added note pertaining to transgender and gender non-conforming members
08/14/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adopted MCG Clinical Care Guidelines. Retired old policy-MG.MM.RA10c