

Bone Mineral Density Studies in Adult Populations

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Requests for bone mineral density (BMD) studies 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:

Are designed with rigorous scientific methodology.

Are published in higher-quality journals (e.g., journals that are read and cited most often within their field).

Address an aspect of specific importance to the guideline in question (admission criteria, length of stay).

Represent an update or contain new data or information not reflected in the current guideline.

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

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

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. (Medicare members are covered as an exception commensurate with the NCD):

- Bone density measurement using pulse-echo ultrasound (e.g., Bindex® point-of-care hand-held device) (CPT 0508T)
- 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)

Revision History

Aug. 14, 2020	Adopted MCG Clinical Care Guidelines
May 8, 2020	Added Medicare coverage for pulse-echo ultrasound (e.g., Bindex® point-of-care hand-held device) eff. 8/8 2020
Sept. 13, 2019	Added coverage for transgender and gender non-conforming members Added Bindex® point-of-care hand-held device to Limitations/Exclusions