



Aetna Better Health® of Louisiana

Medical Policy Statement Louisiana Medicaid

Original Issue Date	Next Annual Review	Effective Date	
01-01-2018	05-02-2019	05-02-2018	
Policy Name		Policy Number	
Cardiology- Duplex Scan for Carotid Artery Stenosis (CAS) in Asymptomatic Adult Patients		ABHLA-RP-0005	
Policy Type			
Medical	Administrative	Pharmacy	Reimbursement

Aetna Better Health of Louisiana implements comprehensive and robust policies to ensure alignment with Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and to warrant that regulatory standards are met.

Aetna Better Health of Louisiana medical policies are developed using literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical industry standards and published MCO and Aetna clinical policy guidelines.

Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease, illness or injury without which the member may suffer prolonged, increased or new conditions, reduced function or significant pain or discomfort. These services meet the standard for good medical practice in the local area and are not provided for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services listed and defined in other medical policy statements, provider manuals, member handbooks and those listed in the covered services portion of the member handbook.

This policy does not ensure either an authorization or reimbursement of services. Please refer to the plan contract for the service(s) referenced therein. If there is a conflict between either this policy or the plan contract, then the plan contract will be the controlling document used to make an authorization or payment determination.

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A. Policy

According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, it is not appropriate to screen for carotid artery disease in asymptomatic adult patients. When a duplex scan of extracranial arteries is reported, a diagnosis indicating a supporting symptom should be reported. Claims submitted for services that are NOT evidence based and claims that do not meet established medical necessity criteria will be denied per LDH Provider Manual.

B. Overview

What is Carotid Artery Stenosis? Carotid artery stenosis is the narrowing of the arteries that run along each side of the neck. These arteries provide blood flow to the brain. Over time, plaque (a fatty, waxy substance) can build up and harden the arteries, limiting the flow of blood to the brain.

What is a duplex scan of the extracranial Arteries? The carotid artery duplex scan is a noninvasive diagnostic tool done to assess the blood flow through the arteries that come from the heart through the neck and supply oxygen rich blood to the brain. It uses high pitched sound waves that are sent through a hand held device called a transducer.

Screening: Conducting an ultrasound test or listening to the neck with a stethoscope.

What is the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force? The Task Force is an independent group of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine. The Task Force works to improve the health of all Americans by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, or preventive medicines. The recommendations apply to people with no signs or symptoms of the disease being discussed.

To develop a recommendation statement, Task Force members consider the best available science and research on a topic. For each topic, the Task Force posts draft documents for public comment, including a draft recommendation statement. All comments are reviewed and considered in developing the final recommendation statement. To learn more, visit the Task Force Web site.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) has issued a final recommendation statement on Screening for Carotid Artery Stenosis. This final recommendation statement applies to adults who do not have signs or symptoms of a stroke and who have not already had a stroke or a transient ischemic attack (a “mini-stroke”). People with signs or symptoms of a stroke should see their doctor immediately. The final recommendation statement summarizes what the Task Force learned about the potential benefits and harms of screening for carotid artery stenosis: Health professionals should not screen the general adult population.

C. Coverage Rationale



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According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, asymptomatic CAS has low prevalence in the general adult population. Noninvasive screening with ultrasonography would result in many false-positive results. Externally validated, reliable risk-stratification tools to distinguish persons who are more likely to have CAS are not available. Potential harms of screening include harms associated with false-positive results and harms of any confirmatory work-up, such as angiography.

D. Clinical Evidence

Duplex ultrasonography is a widely available, noninvasive screening test. Reliability of ultrasonography is questionable because accuracy can vary considerably among laboratories. Its use in a low-prevalence population would result in many false-positive test results—for example, for a population of 100,000 adults with a prevalence of 1%, it would result in 940 true-positive results and 7920 false-positive results (using a specificity of 92%). If no confirmatory tests are done, many unnecessary interventions and harms would occur.
More Examples found in U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

E. Applicable Codes/Conditions of Coverage

Applicable codes: 0075T, 0076T, 37215, 37216, 37217, 37218 (These are examples and NOT an all-inclusive list of applicable codes). Please reference the LA Medicaid Fee Schedule and Provider Manual for additional information.

F. Related Policies/Rules

Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis: Screening
Ovarian Cancer: Screening

G. Review/Revision Date

Action	Date	Comments
Date Issued	01-01-2018	
Date Revised	04-12-2018	
Effective Date	05-02-2018	

H. References

Louisiana Department of Health State Contract, regulations, Provider Manual, fee schedules and notices
<http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Providermanuals/manuals/PS/PS.pdf>



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Individual state Medicaid regulations, manuals & fee schedules

http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/fee_schedules/feeschedulesindex.htm

American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]) Professional Edition* and associated publications and services

<https://www.ama-assn.org/>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services

<https://www.cms.gov/>

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/SupportingDoc/carotid-artery-stenosis-screening/evidence-summary>