

MSCommuniqué

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CMQ00-014

Approval for Category IV Diagnostic Radiology Facilities: Bone Density Testing

On recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Diagnostic Facilities (ACDF), the Medical Services Commission has extended approval for Bone Density Testing to all Category IV Diagnostic Radiology facilities, upon application, effective September 13, 2000.

Note: Fee items covered by this approval include only existing radiography items (DEXA) and do not include nuclear medicine or ultrasound. Existing policy states that bone densitometry for screening purposes is not a benefit. This policy is not changed by this decision. Please refer to the *Protocol for Bone Density Measurement*, adopted by the Commission, effective May 1999.

CMQ00-015

Guideline: Use of Homocysteine Measurement in the Evaluation of Atherothrombotic Disease

Minute of Commission #00-067

Approval of Guideline:

Use of Homocysteine Measurement in the Evaluation of Atherothrombotic Disease

Pursuant to Section 5(1)(c), 24(1), and Section 37(5) of the *Medicare Protection Act*, the following guideline will apply with respect to the Medical Services Commission *Payment Schedule*:

Use of Homocysteine Measurement in the Evaluation of Atherothrombotic Disease, appended. *

This guideline will be used in the determination of benefits payable under the *Medicare Protection Act*.

Effective November 1, 2000

* Guideline distributed November 2000

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Note: Guidelines and protocols can be obtained by contacting MSP at Tel: (250) 952-1347 or Fax: (250) 952-1417. Guidelines and protocols are also posted on the MSP web site: <http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/msp>. Please e-mail your questions or comments to guidelines.protocols@moh.hnet.bc.ca.

CMQ00-016

**Amendment to Protocol:
Office and Laboratory
Management of Genital
Specimens**

The protocol, *Office and Laboratory Management of Genital Specimens*, has been amended as follows:

Appendix, top of page 2

Never put swabs for gonorrhea culture in a refrigerator	<i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> are extremely sensitive to low temperature.
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Should be replaced with:

Charcoal (black media) swabs collected for gonorrhea should never be refrigerated.	Follow the instructions provided by your laboratory for transport and storage of Amies (clear) or Stuart's (clear) media.
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Note: A self-adhesive strip with correct wording will be distributed with the Fall/Winter 2000 issue of the *MSP Physicians' Newsletter*. Please use this strip to correct the published protocol sent out in August 2000.