

## Ultrasound for Dense Breast

There are currently billing codes in the Medical Services Commission Payment Schedule that radiologists can bill if they are referred a patient by a physician or nurse practitioner who in their clinical judgment feels that their patient's situation warrants further investigation.

The Medical Services Plan (MSP) relies on the clinical judgement and medical expertise of physicians and nurse practitioners, to determine the appropriate clinical pathway for their patients. Supplemental screening for patients with dense breast tissue is an MSP insured service, if the patient's primary care practitioner feels that it is warranted.

The radiologist billing codes that should be used in this situation are as follows:

T86047	Breast sonogram, unilateral.....	69.07
T86048	Breast sonogram, additional side .....	34.83

**Notes:**

- i) *Additional side payable only when a localized area of interest is present in each breast. Sonography of the additional breast is not billable for comparison purposes only.*
- ii) *Indications for breast ultrasound:*
  - *evaluation of mammographic abnormalities;*
  - *evaluation of palpable masses;*
  - *evaluation of other localized breast symptoms; evaluation of suspected implant complication;*
  - *guidance for fine needle aspiration biopsy, core needle biopsy or fine wire localization;*
  - *follow-up of solid nodules with benign characteristics which are not visible at mammography.*

There is also information available on the BC Cancer – Breast Screening page related to Breast Density.

<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/screening/breast/breast-health/breast-density>