GUIDELINES
This policy does not certify benefits or authorization of benefits, which is designated by each individual policyholder contract. Paramount applies coding edits to all medical claims through coding logic software to evaluate the accuracy and adherence to accepted national standards. This guideline is solely for explaining correct procedure reporting and does not imply coverage and reimbursement.

DESCRIPTION
Approximately 3.2 million people in the United States have chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections, which puts them at risk for hepatic fibrosis, development of cirrhosis, a need for liver transplantation, and possible death due to cirrhosis or liver cancer. Noninvasive techniques to monitor liver fibrosis are being investigated as alternatives to liver biopsy in patients with chronic liver disease. Options for noninvasive monitoring include (1) multianalyte serum assays with algorithmic analysis of either direct or indirect biomarkers and (2) specialized radiologic methods, including magnetic resonance elastography (MRE), transient elastography, acoustic radiation force impulse imaging (ARFI) (e.g., Virtual Touch Imaging – Acuson S2000-3000), and real-time transient elastography (RTE) (e.g., HI VISION Preirus).

Transient elastography (TE) (e.g., FibroScan) involves the ultrasonographic analysis of wave propagation and tissue deformation in patients suspected of or known to have chronic liver disease. TE is based on the principle that fibrosis changes the elasticity and viscosity of tissue. By assessing the propagation of acoustic waves through liver tissue, the extent of fibrosis can be measured. Monitoring of the tissue compression and decompression with ultrasonography enables calculation of liver stiffness. Increases in liver fibrosis also increase liver stiffness and resistance of liver blood flow. Transient elastography does not perform as well in patients with ascites, higher body mass index, or narrow intercostal margins. Although FibroScan may be used to measure fibrosis, unlike liver biopsy, it does not provide information on necroinflammatory activity and steatosis, nor is it accurate during acute hepatitis or hepatitis exacerbations.

POLICY

**Transient elastography (e.g., FibroScan) (91200) does not require prior authorization.**

- Real-time tissue elastography (RTE) (e.g., HI VISION Preirus) (0346T)
- Acoustic radiation force impulse imaging (ARFI) (e.g., Virtual Touch Imaging – Acuson S2000-3000)
- Magnetic resonance elastography (MRE)
- FibroMAX
- FibroSpect
- HepaScore
- Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) to platelet ratio (APRI)
- FIB-4
- HCV FibroSURE or FibroTest (0001M)
- ASH FibroSURE (0002M)
- NASH FibroSURE (0003M)

HMO, PPO, Individual Marketplace, Elite, Advantage
Paramount considers transient elastography (e.g., FibroScan) medically necessary to detect cirrhosis in adults who have chronic hepatitis C virus infection and BMI < 30 kilograms per square meter (kg/m²).

Performance of transient elastography more than twice per year is considered not medically necessary.

Performance of transient elastography within six months following a liver biopsy is considered not medically necessary.

Transient elastography is considered experimental and investigational for all other indications.

The use of other non-invasive tests for hepatic fibrosis for any indication or testing other than those listed above including, but may not be limited to, the following:
- Real-time tissue elastography (RTE) (e.g., HI VISION Preirus) (0346T)
- Acoustic radiation force impulse imaging (ARFI) (e.g., Virtual Touch Imaging – Acuson S2000-3000)
- Magnetic resonance elastography (MRE)
- FibroMAX
- FibroSpect
- HepaScore
- Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) to platelet ratio (APRI)
- FIB-4
- HCV FibroSURE or FibroTest (0001M)
- ASH FibroSURE (0002M)
- NASH FibroSURE (0003M)

Paramount has determined these procedures are experimental and investigational and therefore non-covered because there is insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed medical literature of the effectiveness of these procedures.

CODING/BILLING INFORMATION

The appearance of a code in this section does not necessarily indicate coverage. Codes that are covered may have selection criteria that must be met. Payment for supplies may be included in payment for other services rendered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT CODES</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91200</td>
<td>Liver Elastography, mechanically induced shear wave (eg, vibration), without imaging, with interpretation and report.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0346T</td>
<td>Ultrasound, elastography</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TAWG REVIEW DATES: 10/24/2014, 08/20/2015

REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION

10/24/14: Policy created to reflect most current clinical evidence per TAWG.
12/02/14: Added new 2015 CPT code 91200.
07/09/15: Changed title from Elastography to Ultrasound Transient Elastography. Transient elastography is now covered.
08/20/15: Transient elastography (91200) will no longer require prior authorization. Procedure 0346T is non-covered. Policy reviewed and updated to reflect most current clinical evidence per TAWG.
03/13/18: Changed title from Ultrasound Transient Elastography to Noninvasive Tests for Hepatic Fibrosis. Added codes 0001M-0003M as non-covered for all product lines. Added these non-invasive tests for hepatic fibrosis as non-covered for all product lines: Acoustic radiation force impulse imaging (ARFI) (e.g., Virtual Touch Imaging – Acuson S2000-3000), Magnetic resonance elastography (MRE), FibroMAX, FibroSpect, HepaScore, Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) to platelet ratio (APRI), FIB-4, HCV FibroSURE or FibroTest (0001M), ASH FibroSURE (0002M), & NASH FibroSURE (0003M). Policy reviewed and updated to reflect most current clinical evidence per Medical Policy Steering Committee.

REFERENCES/RESOURCES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services
Ohio Department of Medicaid [http://jfs.ohio.gov/](http://jfs.ohio.gov/)
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets
Industry Standard Review
Hayes, Inc.