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
An assessment of a central vessel called the ductus venosus is a portion of the left umbilical vein. In the fetus, the ductus venosus allows oxygenated blood from the placenta to bypass the liver. In cases where Doppler abnormalities exist because of fetal growth restriction, blood flow in the ductus venosus will significantly increase. Doppler studies have been investigated to determine whether normal physiologic adaptation is failing and fetal death is imminent, including the evaluation of flow in the middle cerebral artery, aortic isthmus, and ductus venosus, but it is unclear, at this time, if addition of these tests to standard clinical surveillance improves neonatal outcomes. Currently, there is a lack of data to support the use of Doppler studies of fetal vessels other than the umbilical artery in monitoring the growth-restricted fetus.

POLICY
Doppler studies of ductus venosus and vessels for surveillance of impaired fetal growth (76999) are non-covered.

HMO, PPO, Individual Marketplace, Elite, Advantage
Paramount considers Doppler studies of ductus venosus and vessels other than the middle cerebral artery and umbilical artery for fetal surveillance of impaired fetal growth experimental and investigational because their effectiveness for these indications has not been established.

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 CODE</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76999</td>
<td>Unlisted ultrasound procedure (eg, diagnostic, interventional)</td>
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</table>

TAWG REVIEW DATES: 06/23/2017, 07/26/2018

REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION
06/23/17: Policy created to reflect most current clinical evidence per The Technology Assessment Working Group (TAWG). Doppler studies of ductus venosus and vessels for surveillance of impaired fetal growth (76999) are non-covered.
07/26/17: Policy reviewed and updated to reflect most current clinical evidence per The Technology Assessment Working Group (TAWG).

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/)
American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) and associated publications and services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets
Industry Standard Review
Hayes, Inc.