



**AmeriHealth Caritas™**  
District of Columbia

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia Providers

**Date:** October 16, 2020

**Subject:** Obstetrical Ultrasound Examinations Policy

**Summary:** Effective November 16, 2020, AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia (DC) will cover three obstetric ultrasound examinations per pregnancy. Exceptions will be made for additional obstetrical ultrasound examinations for emergencies and/or high-risk pregnancies.

Obstetrical ultrasound to evaluate, detect, and monitor fetal development during pregnancy is considered medically necessary. AmeriHealth Caritas DC will cover three (3) obstetric ultrasound examinations per pregnancy (or as otherwise required by state law, regulation, state Medicaid contract, or provider contract) without prior authorization.

The medical necessity of additional obstetrical ultrasound examinations beyond three may be established for:

- High-risk pregnancies. The claim should include the appropriate ICD-10-CM high-risk diagnosis. Prior authorization is not required. For a comprehensive list of ICD-10 high-risk diagnosis codes, see the appendix of this policy found at the AmeriHealth Caritas DC website at <https://www.amerihealthcaritasdc.com/provider/resources/clinical/policies.aspx>.
- Obstetrical ultrasounds performed in an emergency department (place of service 23). Prior authorization is not required.
- Obstetrical ultrasounds performed in an inpatient hospital setting. Prior authorization is not required.

Obstetrical ultrasound codes are: 76801, 76802, 76805, 76810, 76811, 76812, 76813, 76814, 76815, 76816, 76817, and 76819.

**Limitations:**

- Obstetric ultrasound examinations are not considered medically necessary for the purpose of determining fetal sex or for production of photographic memory keepsakes (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2016).



**AmeriHealth Caritas**<sup>™</sup>

District of Columbia

- Three-dimensional (3-D) or four-dimensional (4-D) ultrasounds are investigational and therefore not considered medically necessary (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2016).

**Questions:**

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 202-408-2237.