

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

North Carolina Marketplace

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Non-Invasive Vascular Studies-NC MP-AD-1299	08/01/2024
Policy Type	
ADMINISTRATIVE	

Administrative Policy Statement prepared by CareSource and its affiliates are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of

A. Subject

Non-Invasive Vascular Studies

B. Background

Non-invasive vascular studies utilize ultrasound to assess irregularities in blood flow in arterial and venous systems. Testing can be performed in a vascular laboratory and at the bedside and is often the first step in diagnosing vascular disease. Results may display as a two-dimensional image with a spectral analysis and color flow. The results of these tests will determine the need for more non-invasive testing or procedures to treat vascular disease.

C. Definitions

- **Duplex Scan** – A non-invasive evaluation of blood flow through the arteries and veins, by combining the use of Doppler ultrasound with two-dimensional structure and motion with time and spectrum analysis and/or color flow velocity or mapping.
- **Non-Invasive Testing** – Utilizes various types of technology to evaluate flow, perfusion, and pressures within the vessels at rest and with exercise.

D. Policy

I. Non-invasive vascular study includes:

- A. providing patient care during the study
- B. supervision of the procedure
- C. interpretation of study results with hard copy output or digital storage of imaging is acceptable

II. All non-invasive vascular diagnostic studies must be performed under at least one of the following situations:

- A. Performed by a physician who is competent in diagnostic vascular studies or under the general supervision of physicians who have demonstrated minimum entry level competency by being credentialed in vascular technology.
- B. Performed by a technician who is certified in vascular technology.

Note: The physician or technician must be capable of demonstrating documented training and experience and maintain any applicable documentation upon CareSource's request.

III. Duplex scanning and physiologic studies may be reimbursed during the same encounter if the physiologic studies are abnormal and/or to evaluate vascular trauma, thromboembolic events or aneurysmal disease, if the physician/provider can document medical necessity in the patient's medical record.

The use of any Doppler device that produces a record but does not permit analysis of bidirectional vascular flow or that does not provide a hard copy or



- IV. Noninvasive vascular studies are considered medically necessary when all of the following criteria are met:
 - A. The member experiences significant signs/symptoms of arterial or venous disease.
 - B. The information provided by the test is required for medical and/or surgical decision making.
 - C. The test is not redundant to other diagnostic procedures that will be performed.

- V. CareSource may request documentation to support medical necessity, including the non-

The ADMINISTRATIVE Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the ADMINISTRATIVE Policy Statement Policy and is approved.