

MedStar Health, Inc.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: PA.101.MH
Last Review Date: 02/25/2021
Effective Date: 06/01/2021

PA.101.MH – Transient Elastography

This policy applies to the following lines of business:

- ✓ MedStar Employee (Select)
- ✓ MedStar CareFirst PPO

MedStar Health considers **Transient Elastography (TE)** (e.g., FibroScan) medically necessary for the following indications:

- Initial assessment of fibrosis of members with a diagnosis with hepatitis C; or
- Follow-up assessment of fibrosis of members with a diagnosis of hepatitis C and previously documented F0, F1, or F2 per METAVIR staging guidelines; or
- Assessment of advanced fibrosis (F2 or greater) versus minimal or no fibrosis (F1 or F0)

Note: TE is considered experimental and investigational for all other indications.

Limitations

TE (e.g. FibroScan) is considered not medically necessary and is therefore not covered if the member meets any of the following criteria:

- BMI of <19 kg/m² or >30 kg/m²
- Ascites
- Focal lesions within the liver (e.g., tumor)
- Acute liver injury
- Previously documented liver fibrosis of F3 or F4
- Pregnant
- Alanine transaminase (ALT) level five or more times the upper limit of normal (55 units per liter)
- Implanted metal device (e.g., pacemaker, automated implantable cardioverter defibrillator (AICD), or any other implantable defibrillators)
- TE performed within the previous 12 months
- Liver biopsy within the previous six months

Background

Fibrosis is a scarring process that replaces damaged liver cells, causing inflammation and leading to the formation of fibrous scar tissue in the liver. Transient Elastography (TE) is a non-invasive technique for the evaluation of fibrosis in chronic liver disease.

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TE serves as an alternative to liver biopsy, the gold standard for evaluating liver fibrosis. TE measures liver stiffness by tracking the wave speed through ultrasound.

The only system suitable for performing TE is the FibroScan System (Echosens SA; Paris, France), as approved by the US FDA on April 5, 2013.

METAVIR Scoring System

Activity Grade	
A0	No activity
A1	Mild activity
A2	Moderate activity
A3	Severe activity
Fibrosis Stage	
F0	No fibrosis
F1	Stellate enlargement of portal tract but without septa formation
F2	Enlargement of portal tract with rare septa formation
F3	Numerous septa without cirrhosis
F4	Cirrhosis

Code:

76981	Ultrasound, elastography; parenchyma (eg, organ)
76982	Ultrasound, elastography; first target lesion
76983	Ultrasound, elastography; each additional target lesion (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
91200	Liver elastography, mechanically induced shear wave (e.g., vibration), without imaging, with interpretation and report

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