## AORTA ULTRASOUND SCREENING

#### **Qualifications for Screening Aorta:**

This is a Medicare service. The order must say screening on it.

# Screening Evaluations must include one or more of the following indications. Please record the indication(s).

- 1. Men 65 years or older.
- 2. Women 65 years or older with cardiovascular risk factors.
- 3. Personal history of peripheral vascular aneurysmal disease.
- 4. Family history of aortic and peripheral vascular aneurysmal disease.
- 5. History of smoking.
- 6. History of hypertension.
- 7. Family history of an aortic aneurysm in a first-degree relative.

#### Patient Prep (recommended):

- 1. Patients are recommended to be NPO for 6 hours prior to an aorta ultrasound examination.
  - a. If a patient has not been NPO (or tube feeding not stopped) for 6 hours, the technologist will scan the patients and document patient preparation.
  - b. Patients who are inadequately prepped may be required to undergo a second limited examination to view the organs that were unable to be imaged.
- 2. Patient may take water with medications up to exam time (small volumes only).

#### Survey:

Perform a real-time survey of the Aorta and iliac arteries.

#### Image Documentation:

Each image must be labeled with the patient's full name, medical record number, accession number, initials of the imaging technologist, organ/area identification, scanning plane and patient orientation if different from supine.

If an image of a structure is not well seen, take an image of the structure and annotate the purpose of the image (i.e. proximal aorta not well seen).

#### **General Procedure Description:**

- 1. Representative images of the aorta in two planes should be obtained using the longitudinal and transverse axis.
- 2. Measurements of the aorta should be documented in the longitudinal and transverse axis. Pay close attention to verify that the image is parallel to the aorta in the longitudinal plane and perpendicular to the aorta in the transverse plane. In the longitudinal image, obtain a measurement in anterior/posterior of the aorta. In the transverse image obtain a measurement of the width of the aorta.
- 3. The measurements should be made to the plane of the aorta and not the plane of the patient.
- 4. All measurements are made from outer wall to outer wall.
- 5. An aneurysm should be imaged in two planes with appropriate measurements obtained. Verify relationship of aneurysm to renal arteries.

#### **Guidelines for Aorta Ultrasound:**

### AORTA/ILIAC ARTERIES

- 1. Longitudinal Aorta AP (proximal, mid and distal).
  - a. Gray scale with and without measurement.
  - b. Anterior-Posterior (AP) measurement.
- 2. Transverse Aorta Transverse (proximal, mid and distal).
  - a. Gray scale with and without measurements.
  - b. Transverse measurement.
- 3. Longitudinal aorta/iliac bifurcation AP right and left.
  - a. Gray scale with and without measurement.
  - b. Anterior-Posterior (AP) measurement.
- 4. Transverse iliac origin Transverse right and left.
  - a. Gray scale with and with measurements.
  - b. Transverse measurement.
- 5. If an aneurysm is present, obtain appropriate longitudinal and transverse images with appropriate measurements. Obtain a color flow and Doppler image.

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