



## Transcranial Dopplers: Coding, Billing, and Medical Requirements

To ensure appropriate payments and maintain billing efficiencies, Healthfirst is committed to informing providers of specific requirements for the usage of any medical device. This alert provides guidance on Healthfirst coding, billing, and medical requirements for Transcranial Dopplers (TCD). However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

### Clinical Evidence

Transcranial doppler uses low frequency doppler transducers applied across the thin portions of the temporal bone (the temporal acoustic windows) to obtain flow velocity information from the basal intracerebral arteries. The transtemporal acoustic window provides access to hemodynamic data from the middle, anterior, and posterior cerebral arteries. A suboccipital approach, with insonation through the foramen magnum, provides access to the intracranial vertebral and basilar arteries, while a transorbital approach can be used to insonate the ophthalmic artery and the carotid siphon via the optic foramen. This data allows evaluation of the direction, depth, speed, and characteristics of flow in these vessels.

### Covered Indications

Healthfirst will consider transcranial doppler evaluation of the intracranial cerebrovascular system medically necessary in specific circumstances as defined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

# Provider Alert

## Coding/Billing Information

Covered when medically necessary:

**93886:** Transcranial Doppler study of the intracranial arteries; complete study

**93888:** Transcranial Doppler study of the intracranial arteries; limited study

**93890:** Transcranial Doppler study of the intracranial arteries; vasoreactivity study

**93892:** Transcranial Doppler study of the intracranial arteries; emboli detection without intravenous microbubble injection

**93893:** Transcranial Doppler study of the intracranial arteries; emboli detection with intravenous microbubble injection

### Note:

1. This list of codes may not be all-inclusive.
2. Deleted codes and codes that are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Please refer to the **Local Coverage Determination (LCD) - Non-Invasive Vascular Studies (L33627) (cms.gov)** and **Article - Billing and Coding: Non-Invasive Vascular Studies (A56758) (cms.gov)** for applicable requirements and limitations.

If you have any questions, contact your Network Account Manager, or call Provider Services at **1-888-801-1660**, Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm.