

## **BONE DENSITOMETRY (BONE DEXA SCAN)**

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Bone densitometry is a radiological test for detecting the early stages of osteoporosis. The densitometry machine calculates the density of bone and creates a chart that compares the patient's density to what the density should be for the patient's age and gender. These readings help Physicians devise a plan to prevent and/or treat osteoporosis.

This procedure can only be performed by a licensed Radiologic Technologist who has received and successfully completed 40 hours of training on the DEXA machine.

### **CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

Bone densitometry is very safe; however, the machine emits low doses of radiation and should not be used on pregnant woman.

### **TABLE WEIGHT LIMIT:**

350 LBS

### **PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

On the day of the exam patients should wear loose fitting clothing with no metal buttons and/or buckles. Patients should not take calcium supplements the day of the exam.

### **EXAM RESULTS:**

Patient results will be communicated by the Ordering Physician. Original reports will be sent to the Ordering Physician the day following the patient exam. Patients will be notified by the technologist performing their study that they will be notified of their exam results by the Ordering Physician. The patient should contact the Ordering Provider if they do not receive their test results within a two week timeframe. .

### **PATIENT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

Patients will be presented with an Advanced Beneficiary Notice at the time of their visit indicating their financial responsibility if the study is not covered by their insurance carrier. The ABN will be maintained as part of the patient's medical record.

### **Medicare Frequency Limitations:**

- ◆ The procedure is covered once every 24 months as a screening test for specified individuals.
- ◆ May be performed more frequently for monitoring patients with documented osteoporosis who are being treated with FDA-approved drug therapy.

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**

**Eastside Imaging:**

Exams are performed on a scheduled appointment basis, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

**Northwest Imaging:**

Exams are performed on a scheduled appointment basis, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.