



## Radiology Views™ Newsletter – March 2009

### Complete Ultrasound of Abdomen and Retroperitoneum

<u>CPT</u>	<u>Work RVU</u>	<u>Description</u>
76700	0.81	Complete ultrasound abdomen
76705	0.59	Limited ultrasound abdomen
76770	0.74	Complete ultrasound retroperitoneum
76775	0.58	Limited ultrasound retroperitoneum

CPT instructions require specific documentation requirements when it comes to assigning a complete ultrasound of the abdomen or retroperitoneum code. It is understood that not all ultrasounds are intended to be complete exams, but when they are, the requirement is that there is documentation of an evaluation of each element or the reason that an element could not be visualized (eg, obscured by bowel gas, surgically absent).

Ultrasound Abdomen: A complete ultrasound examination of the abdomen (76700) consists of real time scan of:

- Liver
- Gallbladder
- Upper abdominal aorta
- Pancreas
- Spleen
- Common bile duct
- Kidneys
- Inferior vena cava (IVC)

If fewer than the required elements for a complete ultrasound of abdomen are documented, the limited CPT code (76705) is reported. The loss of RVUs is 0.22.

Ultrasound Retroperitoneum: A complete ultrasound of the retroperitoneum consists of real time scans each of the following:

- Kidneys
- Abdominal aorta
- Common iliac origins
- Inferior vena cava

Alternatively, if clinical history suggests urinary tract pathology, complete evaluation of the kidneys and urinary bladder also comprises a complete retroperitoneal ultrasound.

If fewer than the required elements for a complete ultrasound of the retroperitoneum are documented, the limited CPT code (75775) is reported. The loss of RVUs is 0.16.

**If you have any questions on this or other documentation and coding topics, please call or email Don Clark, RCC, at 330.564.2608 or [dclark@prcmedical.com](mailto:dclark@prcmedical.com).**