



PROVIDER EXAM CATALOG

Diagnostic vascular, general, and soft tissue ultrasound services

Alpha Vascular & Ultrasound Center

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How to Use This Catalog

Select the requested study on the referral form and include the clinical indication, laterality, and area of concern.

This catalog is intended as a quick reference for ordering providers. Please call 413-387-0022 if assistance is needed selecting the most appropriate ultrasound examination. Final protocol selection may be adjusted based on the clinical question and available documentation.

Scheduling: Same-day appointments may be available. Routine reports are generally returned within 24 hours. Urgent and critical findings are communicated promptly.

Vascular Ultrasound

Cerebrovascular & Physiologic Testing

Carotid Duplex Ultrasound

Evaluates: The common, internal, and external carotid arteries and vertebral flow.

Common indications: Carotid bruit, TIA or stroke symptoms, known stenosis, surveillance, dizziness when vascular disease is suspected.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Abdominal Aorta Ultrasound

Evaluates: The abdominal aorta for aneurysm, ectasia, and major atherosclerotic disease.

Common indications: AAA screening, pulsatile abdominal mass, known aneurysm surveillance, abdominal or back pain when clinically appropriate.

Preparation: Fasting for 6-8 hours is preferred.

ABI / TBI

Evaluates: Resting ankle-brachial and toe-brachial pressure indices with Doppler/PVR assessment.

Common indications: Claudication, rest pain, diminished pulses, nonhealing wounds, diabetes, suspected peripheral arterial disease.

Preparation: No special preparation. Avoid tight clothing around arms and legs.

Lower Extremity Arterial Duplex

Evaluates: Arterial flow from the groin through the lower extremity; may include graft or stent segments.

Common indications: Claudication, ischemic symptoms, abnormal ABI, known stenosis, post-intervention surveillance.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Specify right, left, or bilateral.

Upper Extremity Arterial Duplex

Evaluates: Major arteries of the arm and hand.

Common indications: Arm claudication, diminished pulses, ischemic symptoms, trauma, known stenosis, post-intervention surveillance.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Specify right, left, or bilateral.

Upper / Lower Extremity PVR Testing

Evaluates: Segmental pulse-volume recordings and physiologic arterial assessment.

Common indications: Peripheral arterial disease, Raynaud symptoms, digital ischemia, thoracic outlet symptoms, baseline physiologic testing.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Vascular Ultrasound

Venous, Dialysis & Specialty Studies

Lower Extremity Venous DVT Ultrasound

Evaluates: Deep and selected superficial veins for thrombus and venous flow.

Common indications: Leg pain, swelling, erythema, postoperative symptoms, suspected DVT.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Specify one leg or both legs.

Upper Extremity Venous DVT Ultrasound

Evaluates: Deep and selected superficial veins of the arm and central venous outflow.

Common indications: Arm swelling, pain, catheter-related symptoms, suspected DVT.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Specify one arm or both arms.

Venous Reflux / Insufficiency Study

Evaluates: Superficial and deep venous systems for reflux, obstruction, and varicose-vein mapping.

Common indications: Varicose veins, edema, aching, skin changes, venous ulceration, treatment planning.

Preparation: No special preparation. Patient may be examined standing or in reverse Trendelenburg.

Notes: Specify right, left, or bilateral.

Dialysis Fistula / Graft Evaluation

Evaluates: Dialysis access inflow, anastomoses, conduit, outflow, and flow volume.

Common indications: Poor dialysis function, difficult cannulation, decreased thrill, suspected stenosis, postoperative baseline, surveillance.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Vein Mapping for Dialysis Access

Evaluates: Upper-extremity superficial veins and arterial anatomy for access planning.

Common indications: Preoperative fistula or graft creation planning.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Avoid venipuncture or blood pressure cuffs when possible before the study.

Lower Extremity Vein Mapping

Evaluates: Superficial veins for conduit planning.

Common indications: Bypass planning, venous conduit assessment, preoperative mapping.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Pseudoaneurysm Evaluation

Evaluates: The suspected access or postoperative site for pseudoaneurysm, hematoma, and arterial flow.

Common indications: Post-catheterization groin mass, pain, swelling, bruit, postoperative concern.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Bypass Graft Surveillance

Evaluates: Arterial bypass graft inflow, conduit, anastomoses, and outflow.

Common indications: Routine postoperative surveillance, recurrent symptoms, abnormal physiologic testing.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Vascular Stent Surveillance

Evaluates: Arterial or venous stent patency and velocities.

Common indications: Routine surveillance, recurrent symptoms, suspected restenosis.

Preparation: Preparation depends on the stent location.

Notes: Specify stent location and date of intervention.

Thoracic Outlet Evaluation

Evaluates: Upper-extremity arterial waveforms and flow during provocative maneuvers.

Common indications: Positional arm symptoms, color change, numbness, diminished pulses, suspected vascular thoracic outlet syndrome.

Preparation: Wear a loose sleeveless or short-sleeve top when possible.

Raynaud / Digital Circulation Evaluation

Evaluates: Digital waveforms and perfusion, often with temperature or positional maneuvers.

Common indications: Cold sensitivity, color changes, digital pain, suspected vasospasm or small-vessel disease.

Preparation: Avoid nicotine and caffeine before the study when feasible; keep hands warm.

Vascular Ultrasound

Abdominal Vascular Studies

Renal Artery Duplex

Evaluates: Renal arteries, renal perfusion, kidney size, and selected aortic velocities.

Common indications: Resistant hypertension, renal artery stenosis, asymmetric kidney size, declining renal function, post-intervention surveillance.

Preparation: Nothing to eat or drink for 6-8 hours; medications may be taken with small sips of water unless directed otherwise.

Mesenteric Artery Duplex

Evaluates: Celiac, superior mesenteric, and selected abdominal vessels.

Common indications: Postprandial abdominal pain, unexplained weight loss, suspected mesenteric ischemia, post-intervention surveillance.

Preparation: Nothing to eat or drink for 8 hours.

General Ultrasound

Abdominal & Genitourinary Studies

Complete Abdominal Ultrasound

Evaluates: Liver, gallbladder, bile ducts, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, and abdominal aorta.

Common indications: Generalized abdominal pain, abnormal liver tests, nausea/vomiting, hepatobiliary or renal concerns, palpable abnormality.

Preparation: Nothing to eat or drink for 6-8 hours.

Limited Abdominal Ultrasound

Evaluates: A targeted abdominal organ or area based on the clinical question.

Common indications: Localized pain, follow-up of a known finding, focused organ assessment.

Preparation: Preparation depends on the requested area.

Right Upper Quadrant / Gallbladder Ultrasound

Evaluates: Liver, gallbladder, bile ducts, and often the visualized pancreas and right kidney.

Common indications: RUQ pain, nausea/vomiting, elevated liver tests, suspected gallstones or cholecystitis.

Preparation: Nothing to eat or drink for 6-8 hours.

Liver Ultrasound

Evaluates: Liver size, echotexture, focal abnormalities, portal/hepatic vasculature as indicated, and biliary system.

Common indications: Abnormal liver enzymes, fatty liver, hepatomegaly, known lesion follow-up.

Preparation: Nothing to eat or drink for 6-8 hours is preferred.

Kidney Ultrasound

Evaluates: Kidney size, echogenicity, collecting systems, cysts, masses, and stones when visible.

Common indications: Flank pain, hematuria, renal insufficiency, hydronephrosis, renal lesion follow-up.

Preparation: No fasting required. Hydration may improve visualization.

Kidney & Bladder Ultrasound with PVR

Evaluates: Kidneys, urinary bladder, ureteral jets when visible, and post-void residual volume.

Common indications: Urinary retention, recurrent UTI, hematuria, hydronephrosis, incomplete emptying, prostate-related symptoms.

Preparation: Arrive with a comfortably full bladder; do not void until instructed.

General Ultrasound

Pelvic, Scrotal & Thyroid Studies

Urinary Bladder Ultrasound

Evaluates: Bladder wall, volume, luminal contents, ureteral jets when visible, and residual urine if requested.

Common indications: Urinary retention, hematuria, recurrent UTI, incomplete emptying.

Preparation: Arrive with a comfortably full bladder.

Pelvic Ultrasound - Transabdominal

Evaluates: Uterus, endometrium, ovaries/adnexa when visualized, and pelvic fluid.

Common indications: Pelvic pain, abnormal bleeding, palpable mass, menstrual concerns, follow-up of known findings.

Preparation: A full bladder is required. Drink approximately 32 oz of water one hour before the exam and do not void.

Scrotal Ultrasound

Evaluates: Testes, epididymides, scrotal wall, blood flow, hydroceles, and varicoceles.

Common indications: Pain, swelling, palpable lump, trauma, suspected torsion, epididymitis, mass, infertility-related assessment.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Thyroid Ultrasound

Evaluates: Thyroid size, echotexture, nodules, and adjacent cervical lymph nodes when indicated.

Common indications: Thyroid nodule, enlargement, abnormal thyroid examination, follow-up of known nodules.

Preparation: No special preparation. Remove necklaces when possible.

Soft Tissue / Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

Targeted Soft Tissue Examinations

Neck Lump / Lymph Node Ultrasound

Evaluates: The palpable neck area, lymph nodes, salivary region, and superficial soft tissues.

Common indications: Palpable lump, enlarged lymph nodes, focal pain or swelling.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Mark the exact area of concern when possible.

Groin Lump / Hernia Ultrasound

Evaluates: The symptomatic groin with dynamic maneuvers for hernia and superficial abnormalities.

Common indications: Groin bulge, pain, suspected inguinal/femoral hernia, palpable lump.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Abdominal Wall / Hernia Ultrasound

Evaluates: The abdominal wall with dynamic maneuvers for hernia, fluid collection, or focal mass.

Common indications: Palpable bulge, localized pain, postoperative concern, suspected ventral or incisional hernia.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Arm or Leg Soft Tissue Ultrasound

Evaluates: A focal symptomatic region for cyst, lipoma, abscess, hematoma, fluid collection, or other superficial lesion.

Common indications: Palpable lump, focal pain, swelling, redness, injury.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Clearly identify the area of concern and laterality.

Foreign Body Ultrasound

Evaluates: The superficial area for a retained foreign body and associated inflammatory change.

Common indications: Puncture injury, localized pain, suspected wood/glass/plastic fragment.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Mark the entry site or focal tenderness.

Knee / Baker's Cyst Ultrasound

Evaluates: The popliteal fossa and targeted knee soft tissues for cyst, effusion, or focal abnormality.

Common indications: Posterior knee fullness, suspected Baker's cyst, focal swelling or pain.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Soft Tissue / Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

Tendon, Fascia & Targeted MSK Studies

Plantar Fascia Ultrasound

Evaluates: Plantar fascia thickness, echotexture, tears, and adjacent soft tissues.

Common indications: Heel pain, suspected plantar fasciitis, focal plantar injury.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Wrist Ultrasound

Evaluates: Targeted tendons, superficial nerves, ganglion cysts, and focal soft tissues.

Common indications: Palpable lump, tendon pain, suspected ganglion, focal nerve symptoms.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Shoulder Ultrasound

Evaluates: Targeted rotator cuff tendons, biceps tendon, bursa, and dynamic impingement assessment.

Common indications: Shoulder pain, suspected rotator cuff tear or tendinopathy, bursitis, impingement.

Preparation: Wear clothing that allows easy access to the shoulder.

Muscle / Tendon Ultrasound

Evaluates: A targeted muscle or tendon for tear, tendinopathy, fluid, or focal abnormality.

Common indications: Sports injury, focal pain, weakness, palpable defect, suspected tear.

Preparation: No special preparation.

Notes: Specify the structure and side whenever possible.

Ordering Information

Include on every order	Patient name and DOB; requested study; laterality; clinical indication; ICD-10 diagnosis; referring provider name, NPI, phone, and fax.
Supporting documents	Patient demographics, insurance information, relevant office notes, prior imaging, and operative/intervention details when applicable.
STAT / urgent studies	Please call 413-387-0022 in addition to sending the referral so scheduling and clinical communication can be coordinated promptly.
Questions about exam selection	Call the office. We are happy to help identify the most appropriate ultrasound study for the clinical question.

Clinical note: Ultrasound findings must be interpreted in the context of the patient's history, examination, and other diagnostic information. This catalog does not replace clinical judgment or payer medical-necessity requirements.