**Kidney or Aorta Ultrasound**

**What is a Kidney or Aorta Ultrasound?**
Ultrasound imaging, or sonography, uses sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Ultrasound exams do not use radiation. Ultrasound images are captured in real time so they can show the structure and movement of the body’s internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels.

**Anatomy Visualized:**
This exam is either of the genitourinary system or the abdominal aorta with the main iliac arteries.

**CPT Code**
76770 Complete retroperitoneal area

**Indications**
Renal: Follow up mass or cyst, hematuria, back pain, recurrent UTI, renal disease or insufficiency.
Aorta: Back pain, family or personal history of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), pulsatile abdominal mass, smoking, vascular disease, Medicare screening.

**Contraindications**
None.

**How Does The Patient Prepare?**
Patient needs to be well-hydrated for a renal or bladder exam.

**What Happens During the Test?**
The technologist (sonographer) will obtain a thorough medical history. The patient will be asked to lie face up on an examination table. The sonographer will place a clear gel on the abdomen and kidney area, and then will press a small, hand-held device called a transducer against the skin and sweep it back and forth over the area of concern. During the exam, the patient will be given instructions for breathing and changes in position. For renal or bladder tests, the patient may be asked to empty the bladder and then rescanned to obtain pre- and post-void urinary volumes. The ultrasound image is immediately available to the sonographer. The exam takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes to complete.

**After the Test**
After the exam, the gel is wiped off. The patient may resume normal activities.

**The Results**
A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within one business day.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. Jill Westercamp)

This information is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff members only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Shawnee Mission Medical Center Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders:
CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.