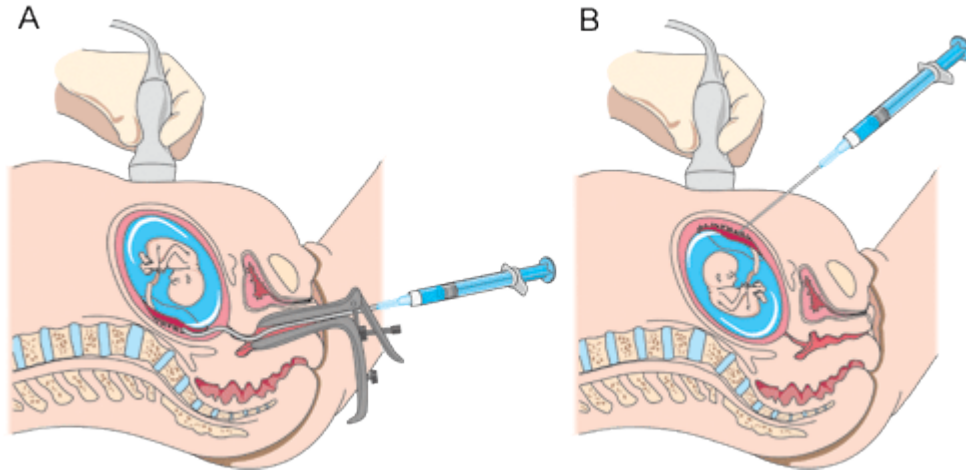


# SMFM Coding Tip #2, August 2013

## Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)



Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) is a prenatal test that detects chromosomal abnormalities such as Down syndrome, as well as a host of other genetic disorders.

CVS is a diagnostic procedure which involves removing some chorionic villi cells from the placenta at the point where it attaches to the uterine wall. There are two types of CVS procedures:

- Transcervical. In this procedure, a catheter is inserted through the cervix into the placenta to obtain the tissue sample
- Transabdominal. In this procedure, a needle is inserted through the abdomen and uterus into the placenta to obtain the tissue sample

When performing a CVS, regardless of the modality utilized (transcervical/transabdominal), you would report the CPT codes 59015 and 76945 for the ultrasound guidance. You would not bill a limited ultrasound (CPT 76815) post procedure, unless there was a separate medical indication to perform the study (i.e. bleeding and/or abdominal pain, etc.)

Confirmation that the fetus is alive immediately after the procedure is part of the procedure and not billable separately.

Depending on the clinical indications and the order/request for service(s) received, you may report the CPT Code 76801 (Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation, first trimester (< 14 weeks 0 days), transabdominal approach; single or first gestation), in addition to the CVS procedure to evaluate the fetus and maternal structures pre-procedure.

Some payers may require additional referrals and/or authorizations when multiple procedures are performed at the same session. We strongly suggest that you check with your local payers for their preferred coding guidelines.