**Background**

* Multiple societies (AIUM, SMFM, ACOG, ACOOG, SDMS, SFP, and FHS) recommend performing a detailed fetal anatomy ultrasound between **12w0d–13w6d** in high-risk pregnancies (“DFTU”)1.https://doi.org/10.1002/jum.16587
* No unique CPT code exists for the DFTU, leaving clinicians without an appropriate reimbursement method when performing this recommended study.
* These societies recommend using **CPT 76811** (detailed fetal anatomy examination, transabdominal approach, single or first gestation), which was designated traditionally for second-trimester anatomy scans.

**Coding Instructions**

* 76811—CPT® Code in category: Ultrasound, pregnant uterus, real time with image documentation, fetal and maternal evaluation plus detailed fetal anatomic examination, transabdominal approach, single or first gestation.2
* For DFTU, bill **76811** when imaging is **medically indicated** in the first trimester (**12w0d–13w6d**) when interpreted by clinicians trained appropriately.3
* Expect that the same patient will need a detailed anatomy examination (another 76811) in the 2nd or 3rd trimester.4
* Since payors may limit 76811 to **one per pregnancy from the same practice**, the submission of a 2nd 76811 from the same practice may result in denials. Previous and new recommendations for DFTU are shown below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Strategy** |  | **Description** |
| **Prior interim approach** |  | Bill **76801 + 76813** (standard first-trimester + nuchal translucency) if DFTU is performed and patient also meets those respective code requirements. Reporting76801/76813 with a detailed first trimester scan 76811 is not appropriate.  As of 06/16/2025, the billing guidance for 76811 in the first trimester has been published and may be accessed at [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jum.16587](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fonlinelibrary.wiley.com%2Fdoi%2F10.1002%2Fjum.16587&data=05%7C02%7C%7C6dbcbf02eff142017aaf08ddb36721d9%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638863977709720277%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TnQIbxqoMqt%2BoS9E9mKaxI%2F0oXd5DFWN2uvplW66G0c%3D&reserved=0)  CPT code 76811 now includes evaluation of the NF/NT (76813).  The DFTU is billed as 76811 during the same session which replaces 76801/76813 as both are components of 76811. |
| **New recommendation** |  | Use 76811 for the DFTU and again in the 2nd or 3rd trimester. |

**Documentation Requirements**

* **Indications**: Must meet criteria per AIUM/ACOG/SMFM (such as known risk factor, suspected fetal anomaly, or other concern, including an abnormal standard diagnostic obstetric ultrasound).5
* **Gestational age**: Include dates (12w0d–13w6d).
* **Scope of exam**: Record detailed anatomy views per AIUM standard.3
* **Provider credentials**: Document that a qualified sonographer and MFM specialist or appropriately trained provider performed and interpreted the scan respectively.1
* **Comparison**: If no prior DFTU has been billed, state that DFTU is the first detailed anatomy study during this pregnancy.
* **Medical necessity**: Clearly indicate why a **second** 76811 is needed later in the second trimester. When performing the second 76811, be sure to include the medical indication for this study.

**Key Reminders**

* Be prepared for **denial risk** if billing 76811 twice in one pregnancy by a single practice, under current payer rules.
* Accurate documentation, payer communication, and tracking are essential to support appropriate reimbursement.

References

1. Multi-Society Guideline for Coding, Billing, and Clinician Training for Detailed Fetal Anatomy Ultrasound in the First Trimester. J Ultrasound Med. 2025;44(7):1519–1521. doi:[10.1002/jum.1658](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jum.16587)
2. CPT® 2025 Professional Edition. American Medical Association.
3. AIUM Practice Parameter for the Performance of Detailed Diagnostic Obstetric Ultrasound Examinations Between 12 Weeks 0 Days and 13 Weeks 6 Days. *J Ultrasound Med* 2021; 40(5):E1–E16. doi: [10.1002/jum.15477](https://doi.org/10.1002/jum.15477). Epub 2020 Aug 27. PMID: 32852128.
4. AIUM Practice Parameter for the Performance of Detailed Second- and Third-Trimester Diagnostic Obstetric Ultrasound Examinations. *J Ultrasound Med* 2019; 38(12):3093–3100. doi: [10.1002/jum.15163](https://doi.org/10.1002/jum.15163). PMID: 31736130.
5. Society for Maternal‑Fetal Medicine. (2021, December 8). Translated ICD‑10 indications for DFTU [PDF]. Society for Maternal‑Fetal Medicine. <https://assets.noviams.com/novi-file-uploads/smfm/Practice_Management/Coding_Resources/Translated_ICD-10_Indications_of_DFTU-3218a53b.pdf>

Please submit any questions you may have to the SMFM Coding Committee Ask a Coding Question website <https://www.smfm.org/ask-a-coding-or-PM-question>). Additional information and resources are also available on our coding website. Thank you very much.