

Bone Density/DEXA: Scheduling Guide & Exam Codes

Last Modified on 01/29/2026 5:43 pm EST



Bone Density/DEXA: Scheduling Guide & Exam Codes

Purpose: This guide provides accurate scheduling support for Bone Density/DEXA exams across all Washington Radiology locations. Use this resource to confirm **exam type**, **location restrictions**, **patient prep**, and **important scheduling reminders**.

Location Availability Summary:

- **ALL** Washington Radiology locations
 - Exception: Sterling does NOT perform DEXA VFA exams
 - Exception: Solis Mammography Winchester does not offer DEXA exams

Important Reminders:

- Always **confirm** that the exam is for a **Bone Density/DEXA**, not a **Nuclear Medicine Bone Scan**
- Whole body scans are **NOT** performed at Washington Radiology
- Sterling **does not** perform DEXA VFA scans as of **10/30/2024**
- If patient recently had a contrast study (CT, MRI, or Barium), ensure 7-day clearance before scheduling
- Clearly advise patients of **prep instructions** during the scheduling call, including the **weight limit** for the machine where the patient is scheduled

Quick Reference: Exam Types & Guidelines

Exam Code	Exam Description	When to Use	Location(s) & Rules	Prep & Notes
-----------	------------------	-------------	---------------------	--------------

49	Bone Density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine screening for osteoporosis • Diagnostic purposes (e.g., post-menopausal women, personal history of fracture, conditions associated with bone loss, use of medications known to cause bone loss, etc.) 	No metal buttons or zippers below the waist. No calcium supplements the day of or the day before the exam. Patient must wait 7 days from their last barium contrast exam before scheduling a bone density exam.
142	Bone Density w/ IVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When VFA or IVA is ordered in addition to standard Bone Density/DEXA exam 	No metal buttons or zippers below the waist. No calcium supplements the day of or the day before the exam. Patient must wait 7 days from their last barium contrast exam before scheduling a bone density exam.

EDITED: 01/29/2026
