

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 7.1

MEDIASTINUM AND DIAPHRAGM

Issue Date: August 26, 1985

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(c\)\(2\)](#), and [\(c\)\(3\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

39000 - 39599

II. DESCRIPTION

A. The mediastinum involves the mass of tissues and organs separating the two lungs, between the sternum in front and the vertebral column behind, and from the thoracic inlet above to the diaphragm below. It contains the heart and its large vessels, the trachea, esophagus, thymus, lymph nodes, and other structures and tissues.

B. The diaphragm involves the musculomembranous partition separating the abdominal and thoracic cavities, and serves as a major inspiratory muscle.

III. POLICY

Medically necessary services and supplies required in the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury or surgical repair involving either the mediastinum or diaphragm are covered, subject to the provisions of 32 CFR 199.

IV. POLICY REAFFIRMED May 8, 1997.

- END -

