



Computed Tomography (CT), Cardiac- Single Service

Clinical Guidelines for Medical Necessity Review

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Important Notices

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Guideline Information:

Specialty Area: Radiology

Care Path Group: Not applicable

Care Path Name: Computed Tomography (CT), Cardiac- Single Service

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Type: Adult (18+ yo) | Pediatric (0-17yo)

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Single Service & Medical Necessity Criteria

Service: Computed Tomography (CT) - Cardiac

General Guidelines

- **Imaging Modality:** CT Cardiac is used as an initial exam for evaluation of disorders affecting the cardiac structure, cardiac veins, myocardium, pericardium, and cardiac valves. Considerations of additional phase, dynamic sequences, positioning of the patient, and use of markers at the discretion of the protocoling radiologist.
- **Criteria for Subsequent Requests:** Clinical reason and judgment according to college and clinical practice and usage of the ACR Appropriateness Criteria and ACC guidelines. It can be used for post-treatment assessment, suspected persistent or recurrent disease, and surveillance.
- **Recommended Clinical Approach:** The referring clinician determines the appropriate clinical indication in consultation with a cardiac imaging expert. This should include pertinent history to justify the exam. The examination is primarily performed with IV contrast. Non-contrast examinations are typically for calcium scoring but can be used in other limited clinical scenarios.
- **Exclusions:** Coronary CTA, CTA chest, and CT chest are covered under separate guideline documents.

Medical Necessity Criteria

Indications

- **CT Cardiac with contrast** is considered appropriate if **ANY** of the following is **TRUE**¹⁻¹⁰:
- ◆ Dyspnea of suspected cardiac origin
 - ◆ Congenital heart disease
 - ◆ Cardiac trauma and iatrogenic injury
 - ◆ Heart Failure Cardiomyopathy
 - ◆ Valvular heart disease
 - ◆ Infective endocarditis
 - ◆ Cardiac and paracardiac masses and tumors
 - ◆ Cardiac aneurysm and pseudoaneurysm
 - ◆ Evaluation of pericardial conditions (pericardial effusion, constrictive pericarditis, or congenital pericardial diseases)
 - ◆ Evaluation of cardiac venous anatomy

- ◆ Evaluation of the thoracic aorta
 - ◆ Planned cardiac interventions or coronary intervention
 - ◆ Intracardiac thrombus
 - ◆ Sequelae of ischemic coronary disease (e.g., scarring)
 - ◆ Complications of valve replacement (open or endovascular)
 - ◆ Cardiac surgical preoperative planning
- **CT Cardiac without contrast** is considered appropriate if **ANY** of the following is **TRUE**:
- ◆ Detection or evaluation of calcification of coronary arteries, ascending aorta, cardiac valves, pericardium, or cardiac masses.
 - ◆ Cardiac surgical preoperative planning

Non-Indications

- **CT Cardiac** may not be considered appropriate if **ANY** of the following is **TRUE**¹⁻¹⁰:
- ◆ Chronic kidney disease or acute kidney injury (glomerular filtration rate less than 30 mL/min/1.73m² (or 0.5 mL/sec/1.73m²))¹¹
 - ◆ Personal/family history of allergic reaction to iodinated contrast media (e.g., anaphylaxis)¹²
 - ◆ Current pregnancy¹³

Site of Service Criteria

Inpatient or outpatient

Procedure Codes (HCPCS/CPT)

HCPCS Code	Code Description/Definition
75572	Computed tomography (CT) of heart with contrast material for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology, including 3-dimensional (3D) image postprocessing, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures
75573	Computed tomography (CT) of heart with contrast material for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology in congenital heart disease
75571	Computed tomography (CT) of heart without contrast material for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology in congenital heart disease

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