Subject: Coronary Artery Calcium Scoring*

Effective Date: June 12, 2012

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Coronary artery calcium scoring by any means (ultra-fast electron beam computed tomography, multi-detector/multi-slice computed tomography), is not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc. as delineated in this policy.

Objective: To ensure proper and consistent reimbursement and to exclude coverage of an unproven procedure.

Procedure: Requests for coronary artery calcium scoring by ultra-fast CT (HCPCS- S8092) or multi-detector CT (CPT-75571) will be denided as not medically necessary, on the basis of lack of adequate objective proof of efficacy in refereed medical literature.

The use of coronary artery calcium scoring for cardiovascular risk assessment or cardiovascular disease screening has not been shown to result in improved health outcomes. There is insufficient data to inform how this test should be integrated into screening or treatment guidelines.
References


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Greenland P, LaBree L, Azen SP, Doherty TM, Detrano RC. Coronary artery calcium score combined with Framingham score for risk prediction in asymptomatic individuals. JAMA 2004;291(2):210-5.(Jan)

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*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.