

Medical Necessity in the Diagnostic Cardiology Office

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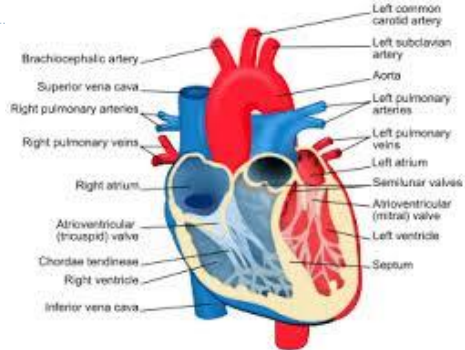
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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ **Objectives for Today's Session:**
 - ▶ Explore diagnostic cardiology diagnostic procedures
 - ▶ Discuss medical necessity for diagnostic cardiology procedures
 - ▶ Review ICD-9 Guidelines relative to cardiology diagnosis coding
 - ▶ Sneak a peek at ICD-10 cardiology coding

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- Heart disease and stroke are two of the leading causes of death in the US for both men and women*
- Americans suffer 1.5 million heart attacks and strokes each year*
- Many conditions undermine the heart's ability to do its job
 - Coronary artery disease
 - Cardiomyopathy
 - Arrhythmia
 - Heart failure

*Million Hearts®, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- Cardiovascular risk factors
 - Minor
 - LDL cholesterol over 130
 - Elevated C-reactive protein (hs CRP)
 - Previous smoking history
 - Elevated creatinine or abnormal kidney function
 - Abnormal carotid artery thickness (CIMT)
 - Major
 - Age: Men over 45, Women over 55
 - HDL less than 40
 - Active smoker
 - Hypertension
 - Family history for heart attacks



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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

▶ Cardiovascular risk factors (Continued)

- ▶ Metabolic syndrome (3 or more of the following)
 - ▶ Waist size: 40"+ for men, 35"+ for women
 - 35" and 32" for Asians
 - ▶ Fasting blood sugar over 100
 - ▶ HDL less than 40 for men, less than 50 for women
 - ▶ Triglyceride over 150
 - ▶ Blood pressure greater than 130/85



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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

▶ Documented CV problems

- ▶ Previous heart attack, stroke or TIA
- ▶ Previous bypass, carotid or vascular surgery or stent placement
- ▶ Atrial fibrillation and over 65 years of age
- ▶ Pacemaker or AICD implantation
- ▶ History of cardiomyopathy or heart failure
- ▶ Ejection fraction less than 45%



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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

▶ Cardiologists have available a variety of diagnostic procedures to aid in the evaluation and/or treatment of these risk factors

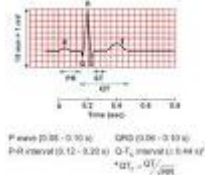
- ▶ EKG
- ▶ Monitors
- ▶ Chest x-ray
- ▶ Stress tests (EKG, echocardiogram, nuclear, PET, complex pulmonary)
- ▶ Tilt table
- ▶ Echocardiogram
- ▶ Vascular studies
- ▶ Cardiac catheterization

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► EKG (93000, 93005, 93010)

- Records electrical activity of the heart
 - Assesses heart rhythm
 - Diagnose ischemia
 - Diagnose a heart attack
 - Evaluate certain abnormalities of heart, e.g., enlarged heart



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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Reporting Medical Necessity (continued)

- Positive cardiac findings
- Many signs and symptoms – consult NCD, LCD and carrier coverage policies
- Pre-operative evaluation
 - Proper reporting of negative pre-op EKG
 - V72.81 (Preoperative cardiovascular exam)
 - Followed by diagnosis for anticipated surgery, e.g., 574.20 for gall stones
- 794.31 Abnormal EKG

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Echocardiography (93303 – 93308)

- Ultrasound image of heart in real time
 - Measures all four chambers
 - Measures heart walls
 - Evaluates all four heart valves
 - Evaluates heart's performance
- Clinical indications
 - Murmurs
 - Chest pain
 - Heart attack
 - Heart defect
 - Family history

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Components of echocardiogram

- M-Mode
- 2-D
- Doppler
- Code selection depends on:
 - Intent:
 - congenital cardiac anomalies (93303, 93304)
 - follow-up or limited study (93308)
 - Modalities included (93306, 93307)

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► Reporting medical necessity for echocardiograms

- Ventricular function and cardiomyopathies
- Hypertensive CV disease
- Acute MI and coronary insufficiency
- Exposure to cardiotoxic agents
- Native valvular heart disease
- Prosthetic heart valves
- Endocarditis
- Congenital heart disease
- Suspected cardiac thrombus and emboli
- Cardiac tumors and masses
- Critically ill and trauma patients

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Stress Tests

- Evaluate heart's response to stress
 - Adequate blood flow
 - Effectiveness of heart medications
 - Likelihood of having coronary heart disease
 - Effectiveness of previous procedures to improve blood flow
 - Identify abnormal heart rhythms

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Stress Tests from simple to complex

- Treadmill EKG stress
 - Evaluate for EKG changes or chest pain
- Stress echocardiogram (93350, 93351)
 - Visualize heart wall motion and pumping action when heart is stressed
 - May reveal lack of blood flow not apparent on other tests
 - Stress induced via exercise or pharmacologically
 - pharmaceuticals reported separately via HCPCs codes
 - **Includes** rest and stress echo studies, interpretation and report
 - 93351 includes physician supervision

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Reporting Medical Necessity for Stress Echocardiogram

- Ventricular function and cardiomyopathies
- Hypertensive CV disease
- Acute MI and coronary insufficiency
- Exposure to cardiotoxic agents
- Cardiac transplant and rejection monitoring
- Native valvular heart disease
- Prosthetic heart valves
- Endocarditis
- Congenital heart disease
- Suspected cardiac thrombus and emboli
- Cardiac tumors and masses
- Critically ill and trauma patients

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

Doppler Ultrasound

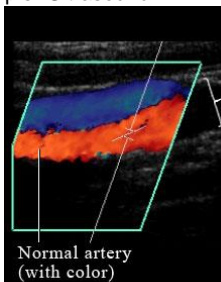


Figure 1

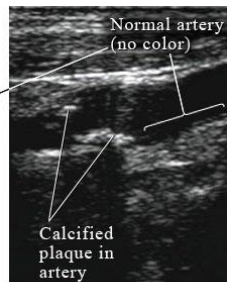


Figure 2

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

▶ Extremity Arterial and Venous Studies

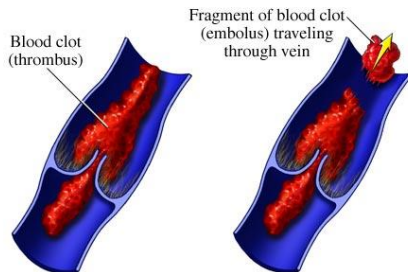
- ▶ 93922 – 93980
- ▶ Vein vs. artery
- ▶ Upper vs. lower extremities
- ▶ Complete vs. limited study
- ▶ Unilateral vs. bilateral study

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

▶ Cerebrovascular Arterial Studies

- ▶ 93880-93882

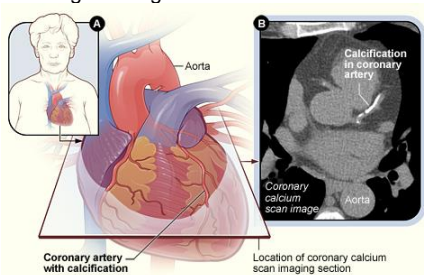


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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

▶ Coronary Calcium Scan CPT 75571

- ▶ Screening vs. diagnostic



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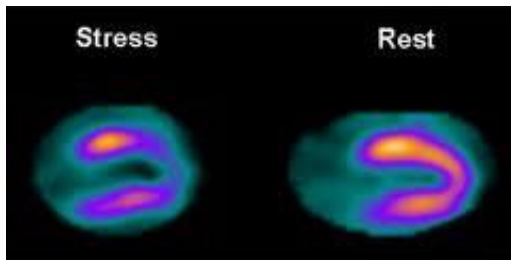
Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ **Reporting Nuclear Stress Test – CPT 78451-52**
 - ▶ Append modifier -26 if appropriate
 - ▶ Two-day procedures are reported with 78452
 - ▶ Report CV Stress separately
 - ▶ 93015 for global service performed in office
 - ▶ Radiopharmaceutical is reported separately via HCPCS code
 - ▶ Pharmaceutical (if used for stress) is reported separately via HCPCS code

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ **Nuclear Stress/SPECT**



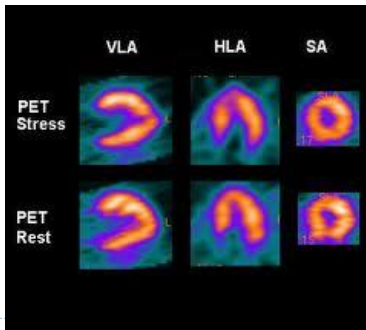
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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ **PET (Positron Emission Tomography) stress**
 - ▶ Utilizes different modality from nuclear stress test to:
 - ▶ Determine which parts of heart are healthy and function normally
 - ▶ Utilizes radioactive substance to enable physician to visualize coronary artery flow and ventricular function
 - ▶ Comparison of rest and stress images allows physicians to identify areas of ischemia and identify scar tissue (prior MI)
 - ▶ Cardiac PET testing offers sensitivity of 93%
 - ▶ Procedure takes approximately 45 minutes vs 3-4 hours for nuclear
 - ▶ Sharper images than nuclear

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

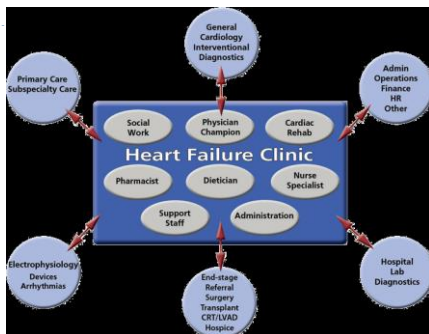


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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Reporting PET test (78491, 78492)
 - ▶ Append modifier -26 if appropriate
 - ▶ Report CV Stress separately
 - ▶ 93015 for global service performed in office
 - ▶ Radiopharmaceutical is reported separately via HCPCS code
 - ▶ Pharmaceutical if used for stress is reported separately via HCPCS code

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Submaximal Heart and Pulmonary Evaluation (SHAPE)
 - ▶ aka Pulmonary stress testing, complex (94621)
 - ▶ Screening test to assess heart and lung function
 - ▶ Determine whether patient's exercise intolerance is cardiac-related vs. pulmonary-related vs both vs neither (e.g, lack of conditioning or poor effort)
 - ▶ Includes:
 - ▶ 6-minute stair-step stress,
 - ▶ CO₂ measurement
 - ▶ O₂ uptake
 - ▶ EKG recording

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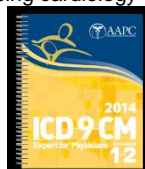
Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Reporting Medical Necessity for SHAPE
 - ▶ Many pulmonary diagnoses covered
 - ▶ Insomnia and sleep apnea
 - ▶ Pre-op respiratory examination (V72.82)
 - ▶ Signs and Symptoms:
 - ▶ shortness of breath and dyspnea (786.05, 786.09)
 - ▶ cough (786.2)
 - ▶ hemoptysis (786.30, 786.39)

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Medical necessity for all procedures and services is reported via ICD-9 codes
- ▶ Specific ICD-9 Guidelines addressing cardiology coding may be confusing



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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Hypertension with Heart Disease - Chapter 7. a. 2)

- "Heart conditions (425.8, 429.0-429.3, 429.9) are assigned to a code from category 402 when a causal relationship is stated (due to hypertension) or implied (hypertensive). Use an additional code from category 428 to identify the type of heart failure in those patients with heart failure."

- Hypertensive myocarditis
402.91

- Congestive heart failure due to hypertension 402.91, 428.0

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Hypertension with Heart Disease - Chapter 7. a. 2)

- A cause and effect relationship between HTN and heart disease cannot be assumed.

- "The same heart conditions with hypertension, but without a stated causal relationship, are coded separately"

- Congestive heart failure and HTN 428.0, 401.9
- Atherosclerotic heart disease w/essential HTN 414.00, 401.9

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Hypertensive Chronic Kidney Disease - Chapter 7. a. 3)

- "Assign codes from category 403, Hypertensive chronic kidney disease, when conditions classified to category 585 are present. Unlike hypertension with heart disease, ICD-9-CM presumes a cause and effect relationship and classifies chronic kidney disease (CKD) with hypertension as hypertensive chronic kidney disease."

- Hypertensive nephropathy, benign 403.10

- ³³Accelerated HTN with CKD 403.00, 585.9

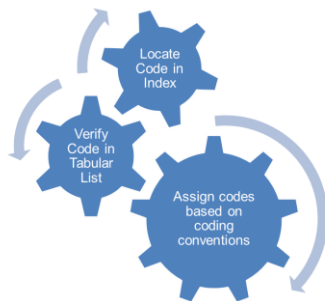
Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Coronary Atherosclerosis (Code 414.0x)

- Includes coronary atherosclerosis, arteriosclerotic heart disease, coronary arteriosclerosis, coronary structure, coronary sclerosis or atheroma.
- Fifth digit indicates the coronary artery involved
 - 414.01 Native artery
 - 414.02 Autologous vein bypass graft
 - 414.03 Nonautologous biological bypass graft
 - 414.04 Artery bypass graft, incl. internal mammary artery
 - 414.05 Unspecified type of bypass graft
 - 414.06 Native coronary artery of transplanted heart
 - 414.07 Bypass graft of transplanted heart
 - 414.00 Unspecified type of vessel

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Sneak Peek at Cardiology Codes in ICD-10



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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

► Sneak Peek at Cardiology Codes in ICD-10

- Chapter 9, Diseases of the Circulatory System
I00 to I99 (eye zero zero to eye nine nine)
- Hypertension (401.x) coded in ICD-10 is I10
- Combination codes for atherosclerotic heart disease with angina pectoris:
 - I25.11 Atherosclerotic heart disease of the native coronary artery with angina pectoris

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Sneak Peek at ICD-10 (continued)
- ▶ Intraoperative and Post procedural Cerebrovascular Accident
 - ▶ Code assignment based on
 - ▶ Infarction vs. hemorrhage
 - ▶ Intra-operatively vs. post-operatively

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Sneak Peek at ICD-10 (continued)
- ▶ AMI (categories I21-I22) Guidelines
 - ▶ ICD-9: Acute vs chronic (8-week rule)
 - ▶ ICD-10: Initial and subsequent (4-week rule)
 - ▶ 4th character describes site
 - ▶ 5th character describes coronary artery
 - ▶ Example:
 - I21.01 STEMI of other sites involving left main coronary artery
 - ▶ STEMI vs NSTEMI
 - ▶ NSTEMI evolves to STEMI, assign STEMI code
 - ▶ STEMI converts to NSTEMI due to therapeutic intervention, assign STEMI code

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Sneak Peek at ICD-10 (continued)
- ▶ Use additional code
 - ▶ Exposure to tobacco
 - ▶ Z77.22 exposure to environmental tobacco smoke
 - ▶ Z57.31 occupational exposure to tobacco smoke
 - ▶ Z87.891 history of tobacco use
 - ▶ F17.- tobacco dependence
 - ▶ Z72.0 tobacco use
 - ▶ S/P tPA administration Z92.82

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Sneak Peek at ICD-10 Cardiology codes (continued)
- ▶ Try code translators on AAPC website
<http://www.aapc.com/ICD-10/icd-10-mapping.aspx>
 - ▶ ICD-10-CM to ICD-9-CM
 - ▶ ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM
- ▶ Countdown to ICD-10

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Whether coded with ICD-9 or ICD-10 Medical necessity is still the driving force for all medical procedures whether diagnostic or therapeutic
- ▶ Accurately documenting and reporting medical necessity will assist providers by receiving prompt and proper reimbursement for the services they provide

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Diagnostic Cardiology Procedures and Medical Necessity

- ▶ Questions?



- ▶ ldhall05@hotmail.com
- ▶ Thank you.

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