

Cardiac Solution Procedure Request Tip Sheet



This tip sheet is intended to highlight considerations related to cardiac solution prior authorization requests for AmeriHealth Caritas Iowa and does not include clinical criteria. Please refer to National Imaging Associates' (NIA) clinical guidelines for criteria that determine medical necessity for each cardiac procedure.

Cardiac solution

- **The following cardiac tests require prior authorization;** requests are reviewed by board-certified cardiologists and often include the review of pertinent medical records.
 - Myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI).
 - Stress echocardiography (SE).
 - Coronary computed tomographic angiography (CCTA).
 - Cardiac positron emission tomography (PET), mitral regurgitation (MR), computerized tomography (CT), and electron beam computed tomography (EBCT) may be included in a Radiology Benefits Management Program or considered part of a cardiac solution.
- **Exercise treadmill test or an electronic cardiogram (ECG)** does not require prior authorization and can be considered an appropriate first step in evaluating potential heart disease for patients who can exercise.
- **SE is an alternative to MPI** because it results in less radiation exposure for patients who do not have any contraindications to physical activity.
 - **Review the “NIA MPI vs. SE Tip Sheet,”** which gives details on each test and the appropriate clinical scenarios for each.
- **Medical records may be requested for review** on selected cardiac procedures; **records should be submitted as quickly as possible and contain all information pertinent to the request.** Include the following information. (See “Cardiac Checklist” for more detail).
 - **Medical chart notes**, including patient’s current cardiac status/symptoms, cardiac factors, and indications.
 - **Relevant patient information**, such as age, body mass index (BMI), family/medical history, risk factors, previous treatments/interventions, and problems with exercise capacity.
 - **Results of exam and previous tests** (e.g. exercise stress test, echocardiography, stress echo, MPI, coronary angiography, etc.).

Radiation Exposure

MPI: 15 - 25 mSv

SE: 0 mSv

Chest X-Ray: 0.1
(for comparison)

Radiation exposure should be limited when possible.

Choosing Wisely: MPI

- Do not perform MPI in patients without cardiac symptoms unless high-risk markers are present.
- Do not perform MPI in patients who are at low risk for cardiac events.
- Do not perform MPI for routine follow-up of asymptomatic patients.
- Do not perform MPI as pre-op assessment in asymptomatic patients undergoing low or intermediate risk non-cardiac surgery.

To initiate an authorization request, visit **www.RadMD.com** or call **1-888-864-7237**.

