Coverage Summary

Computed Tomographic Angiography (CTA)/Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT) of the Chest

Policy Number: C-008 Products: UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans

Approved by: UnitedHealthcare Medicare Benefit Interpretation Committee

Original Approval Date: 02/26/2008 Last Review Date: 08/20/2019

Related Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines:

- Computed Tomography (NCD 220.1)
- Coronary Fractional Flow Reserve Using Computed Tomography (FFR-ct)

INDEX TO COVERAGE SUMMARY

I. COVERAGE

1. Computed Tomographic Angiography (CTA)

2. Multi-detector (Multi-detector-row/Multi-slice) Computed Cardiac Tomography (MDCT) also known as Cardiac Computed Tomographic Angiography (CCTA) or Computed Tomography of the Heart and Coronary Arteries

3. Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT) also known as Ultrafast CT scan or Electron-beam Tomography (EBT)

II. DEFINITIONS

III. REFERENCES

IV. REVISION HISTORY

V. ATTACHMENTS

Coverage Statement: Computed tomographic angiography is covered in accordance with Medicare coverage criteria.

Guidelines/Notes:

1. Computed Tomographic Angiography (CTA)

CTA is a general phrase used to describe a non-invasive method, using intravenous contrast, to
visualize the coronary arteries (or other vessels) using high-resolution, high-speed CT.

On March 12, 2008, after examining the medical evidence, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that no national coverage determination (NCD) is appropriate at this time and coverage decisions should be made by local contractors through local coverage determination process or case-by-case adjudication.


2. **Multi-detector (Multi-detector-row/Multi-slice) Computed Cardiac Tomography (MDCT)** [also known as Cardiac Computed Tomographic Coronary Angiography (CCTA) or Computed Tomography of the Heart and Coronary Arteries]
   - **Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Multi-detector Computed Tomography.**
   - **Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist for all 50 states and compliance with these policies must be used where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, see the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A).**
   - **Committee approval date: August 20, 2019**
   - **Accessed October 1, 2019**

3. **Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT)** [also known as Ultrafast CT scan or Electron-beam Tomography (EBT)]
   - **Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT).**
   - **Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) for EBCT exist and compliance with these policies must be used where applicable. All LCDs agree that EBCT is not covered. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, see the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment B).**
   - **For states with no LCD/LCAs, see the following for coverage guideline:**
     - **For regions involved in the Radiology Prior Auth Program, see the UnitedHealthcare Medicare Solutions Radiology & Cardiology Imaging Guidelines.**
     - **For regions not involved in the Radiology Prior Auth Program, see the nationally recognized guidelines, i.e., MCG™ Care Guidelines, 23rd edition, 2019, Cardiac CT Scan ACG: A-0020 (AC).**
       (IMPORTANT NOTE: After searching the LCD Availability Grid and the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
   - **Committee approval date: April 16, 2019**
   - **Accessed October 1, 2019**

### II. DEFINITIONS

**Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT):** A non-invasive imaging technique that can detect calcium deposits in coronary arteries. These calcium deposits are often associated with atherosclerotic plaques, and it has been proposed that detection of coronary calcification can provide an early and sensitive method of diagnosing coronary artery disease (CAD). 
Multi-detector Row Computed Tomography (MDCT): A technology which requires thin (up to 1 mm) slices, 0.5 to 0.75 mm reconstructions, multiple simultaneous images (e.g. 16, 32, 64 or more slices), and cardiac gating (often requiring beta blockers for ideal heart rate). There is significant post-processing, depending on the number of slices per second for image generation. For coronary artery imaging, the resulting images show a high correlation with stenotic lesions noted on diagnostic cardiac catheterization but more importantly, with atheromas on intracoronary ultrasound. Multiple LCDs/LCAs for Cardiac Computed Tomography (CCT) and Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA); available at [http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx?from2=search.asp&](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx?from2=search.asp&). (Accessed August 6, 2019)

### III. REFERENCES

See above

### IV. REVISION HISTORY

08/20/2019 Guideline 2 [Multi-detector (Multi-detector-row/Multi-slice) Computed Cardiac Tomography (MDCT)]

- Revised language pertaining to applicable Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) to indicate LCDs/LCAs exist for all 50 states and compliance with these policies is required where applicable
- Removed default guidelines for states with no LCDs/LCAs

**Attachments**

- Updated LCD Availability Grids to reflect the most current reference links

### V. ATTACHMENT(S)

**Attachment A - LCD Availability Grid**

**Multi-detector (Multi-detector-row/Multi-slice) Computed Cardiac Tomography (MDCT)**

[also known as Cardiac Computed Tomographic Coronary Angiography (CCTA) or Computed Tomography of the Heart and Coronary Arteries]

CMS website accessed October 1, 2019

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<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>States</th>
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<td>L33423</td>
<td>Cardiac Computed Tomography &amp; Angiography (CCTA)</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Palmetto GBA</td>
<td>AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV</td>
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<td>L33282</td>
<td>Computed Tomographic Angiography of the Chest, Heart and Coronary Arteries</td>
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<td>First Coast Service Options, Inc.</td>
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<td>AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH,</td>
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Attachment A - LCD Availability Grid

**Multi-detector (Multi-detector-row/Multi-slice) Computed Cardiac Tomography (MDCT)**
[also known as Cardiac Computed Tomographic Coronary Angiography (CCTA) or Computed Tomography of the Heart and Coronary Arteries]

CMS website accessed October 1, 2019

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<td>Non-covered Services</td>
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<td>National Government Services, Inc</td>
<td>CT, IL, MA, ME, MN, NH, NY, RI, VT, WI</td>
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End of Attachment A

Attachment B - LCD Availability Grid

**Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT)**
[also known as Ultrafast CT scan or Electron-beam Tomography (EBT)]

CMS website accessed October 1, 2019

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End of Attachment B