Medica Coverage Policy

**Policy Name:** Coronary Artery Calcium Scoring (CACS)  
**Effective Date:** 2/17/2020

**Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy**

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica plans. Please refer to the member’s plan document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member’s plan document, the member’s plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare and Minnesota Health Care Programs, this policy will apply unless those programs require different coverage. Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Medica coverage policy may call the Medica Provider Service Center toll-free at 1-800-458-5512.

Medica coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care and treatment.

**Coverage Policy**

Coronary artery calcium scoring is investigative unproven and therefore **NOT COVERED** for all indications in both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, with or without risk factors, performed with any computed tomography (CT) modality. There is insufficient reliable evidence in the form of high quality peer-reviewed medical literature to establish the effects on health care outcomes.

**Description**

Coronary artery calcium scoring to assess the risk of coronary artery disease involves the use of computed tomography (CT) scanning to detect calcification, related to atherosclerosis, in the coronary arteries. Ultrafast computed tomography (also known as electron beam computed tomography [EBCT]) has been shown to be able to quantify the amount of calcium in the coronary arteries. Multi-slice (also called multi-detector row) CT (MSCT or MDCT) is also commonly used for coronary calcium scoring. When used for this purpose, contrast media is not required. Calcium deposits in the coronary arteries may be associated with atherosclerotic plaques. Therefore, it has been proposed that detection of coronary artery calcification could provide a fast and noninvasive method of diagnosing CAD. However, controversy exists regarding the ability of the coronary artery calcium score to provide predictive information beyond that obtained from traditional risk factors.

**FDA Approval**

EBCT, MSCT, and MDCT scanners are Class II devices. Class II devices pose little, if any, risk to the consumer if performance standards are met and do not require pre-market approval (PMA). Several MSCT, MDCT and EBCT scanners have received 510(k) clearance from the FDA.

**Prior Authorization**

Prior authorization is not applicable. Claims for this service are subject to retrospective review and denial of coverage, as investigative services are not eligible for reimbursement.
**Coding Considerations**
Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

**CPT Codes:**
75571 - Computed tomography, heart, without contrast material, with quantitative evaluation of coronary calcium

Original Effective Date: 5/1/2015

Re-Review Date(s): 4/18/2018
1/16/2020