Number and Coverage Topic:
20130920A – Cardiac Nuclear Imaging

HTCC Coverage Determination:
Cardiac Nuclear Imaging is a covered benefit with conditions consistent with the criteria identified in the reimbursement determination.

HTCC Reimbursement Determination:
Limitations of Coverage
Cardiac Nuclear Imaging is a covered benefit with conditions including:

**SPECT** (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography)

**Covered for patients with symptoms of myocardial ischemia (symptomatic) who are:**
- At high risk of coronary artery disease (CAD), or
- At low to intermediate risk of CAD, and
  - Have abnormal/indeterminate exercise treadmill test (ETT), or
  - Unable to perform ETT, or
  - Electrocardiogram (ECG) abnormality that prevents accurate interpretation of ETT.

**For patients with known CAD, monitoring:**
- Changes in symptoms

**PET** (Positron Emission Tomography)

**Covered** under the same conditions as SPECT when:
- SPECT is not technically feasible; or
- SPECT is inconclusive.
Non-Covered Indicators

Cardiac Nuclear Imaging is not a covered benefit for:

- Asymptomatic patients*
- Patients with known CAD and no changes in symptoms

* Does not apply to pre-operative evaluation of patients undergoing high-risk non-cardiac surgery or patients who have undergone cardiac transplant.

Agency Contact Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor and Industries</td>
<td>1-800-547-8367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Employees Health Plan</td>
<td>1-800-200-1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State Medicaid</td>
<td>1-800-562-3022</td>
</tr>
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HTCC Coverage Vote and Formal Action

Committee Decision

Based on the deliberations of key health outcomes, the committee decided that it had the most complete information: a comprehensive and current evidence report, public comments, and agency and state utilization information. The committee concluded that the current evidence on Cardiac Nuclear Imaging demonstrates that there is sufficient evidence to cover with conditions. The committee considered all the evidence and gave greatest weight to the evidence it determined, based on objective factors, to be the most valid and reliable. Based on these findings, the committee voted to cover with conditions Cardiac Nuclear Imaging.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HTCC Committee Coverage Determination Vote</th>
<th>Not Covered</th>
<th>Covered Unconditionally</th>
<th>Covered Under Certain Conditions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Nuclear Imaging - SPECT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Nuclear Imaging - PET</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

The Chair called for discussion of conditions of coverage for Cardiac Nuclear Imaging following the majority voting for coverage under certain conditions. The following conditions were discussed and approved by a majority of the clinical committee:

Limitations of Coverage

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**SPECT** (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography)

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Action

The committee Chair directed HTA staff to prepare a Findings and Decision document on Cardiac Nuclear Imaging reflective of the majority vote for final approval at the next public meeting.

The committee checked for availability of a Medicare decision. CMS has a national coverage determination (NCD) for SPECT that gives CMS regional contractors discretion with respect to clinical indications and limitations of coverage with one exception that SPECT may not follow an inconclusive PET scan for myocardial viability. For SPECT, the HTCC reviewed this NCD and the local decision. CMS has a NCD for PET Cardiac Nuclear Imaging. The committee’s determination is in agreement with the NCD for SPECT and PET with regard to indications for testing. The committee did not address specific radiotracers for PET scanning.

Health Technology Clinical Committee Authority:

Washington State’s legislature believes it is important to use a science-based, clinician-centered approach for difficult and important health care benefit decisions. Pursuant to chapter 70.14 RCW, the legislature has directed the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), through its Health Technology Assessment (HTA) program, to engage in an evaluation process that gathers and assesses the quality of the latest medical evidence using a scientific research company and that takes public input at all stages.

Pursuant to RCW 70.14.110 a Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) composed of eleven independent health care professionals reviews all the information and renders a decision at an open public meeting. The Washington State HTCC determines how selected health technologies are covered by several state agencies (RCW 70.14.080-140). These technologies may include medical or surgical devices and procedures, medical equipment, and diagnostic tests. HTCC bases its decisions on evidence of the technology’s safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness. Participating state agencies are required to comply with the decisions of the HTCC. HTCC decisions may be re-reviewed at the determination of the HCA Administrator.