## Coverage Summary

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Number:</th>
<th>C-008</th>
<th>Products:</th>
<th>UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans</th>
<th>Original Approval Date:</th>
<th>02/26/2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved by:</td>
<td>UnitedHealthcare Medicare Benefit Interpretation Committee</td>
<td>Last Review Date:</td>
<td>05/16/2017</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Related Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline:</td>
<td><strong>Computed Tomography (NCD 220.1)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The benefit information in this Coverage Summary is based on existing national coverage policy, however, Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies are required where applicable.

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### I. COVERAGE

**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.
See the NCD for Computed Tomography (220.1). Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. These LCDs are available at http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx. (Accessed May 2, 2017)

2. Multidetector (Multidetector-row/Multislice) 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 Multidetector Computed Tomography.
- Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) exist and compliance with these LCDs must be used where applicable. For state-specific LCDs, see the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A).
- For states with no LCDs, see the following for coverage guidelines:
  - For regions involved in the Radiology Prior Auth Program, see the Medicare Advantage Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines - Imaging 2017 for coverage guidelines.
  - For regions not involved in the Radiology Prior Auth Program, see the nationally recognized guidelines, i.e., MCG™ Care Guidelines, 21st edition, 2017, Cardiac CT Scan ACG: A-0020 (AC). (IMPORTANT NOTE: After searching the LCD Availability Grid and the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD or Local Article is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
- Committee approval date: May 16, 2017
- Accessed May 2, 2017

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) for EBCT exist and compliance with these LCDs must be used where applicable. All LCDs agree that EBCT is not covered. For state-specific LCDs, see the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A).
- For states with no LCDs, see the following for coverage guidelines:
  - For regions involved in the Radiology Prior Auth Program, see the Medicare Advantage Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines - Imaging 2017 for coverage guidelines.
  - For regions not involved in the Radiology Prior Auth Program, see the nationally recognized guidelines, i.e., MCG™ Care Guidelines, 21st edition, 2017, Cardiac CT Scan ACG: A-0020 (AC). (IMPORTANT NOTE: After searching the LCD Availability Grid and the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD or Local Article is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
- Committee approval date: May 16, 2017
- Accessed May 2, 2017

II. DEFINITIONS

Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT): A noninvasive 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). Hayes, Inc. Medical Technology Directory. Electron Beam Computed Tomography for Coronary Artery Disease. June
**Multidetector 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 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 May 2, 2017)*

### III. REFERENCES

See above

### IV. REVISION HISTORY

**05/16/2017**  Annual review; no updates.

**03/21/2017**  Re-review with the following update:

- Guideline 2 [Multidetector (Multidetector-row/Multislice) Computed Cardiac Tomography (MDCT) also known as Cardiac Computed Tomographic Coronary Angiography (CCTA) or Computed Tomography of the Heart and Coronary Arteries] - Updated reference from MCG 20th to the 21st edition 2017.

**05/16/2016**  Annual review with the following updates:

- Guideline 2 [Multidetector (Multidetector-row/Multislice) Computed Cardiac Tomography (MDCT) also known as Cardiac Computed Tomographic Coronary Angiography (CCTA) or Computed Tomography of the Heart and Coronary Arteries]- Deleted “Indications for coverage within available LCDs vary.” And added “For state-specific LCDs, see” to 2nd bullet point.

Guideline 3 [Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT) also known as Ultrafast CT scan or Electron-beam Tomography (EBT)] – Deleted “CCTA and MDCT which address” from 2nd bullet point.

**03/15/2016**  Re-review with the following updates:

- Guideline 2 [Multidetector (Multidetector-row/Multislice) Computed Cardiac Tomography (MDCT) also known as Cardiac Computed Tomographic Coronary Angiography (CCTA) or Computed Tomography of the Heart and Coronary Arteries]- Updated reference from MCG 19th to the 20th edition.

- Guideline 3 [Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT) also known as Ultrafast CT scan or Electron-beam Tomography (EBT)]- Updated reference from MCG 19th to the 20th edition.

- Updated reference link(s) of the applicable LCDs in the Availability Grids to reflect the condensed link.

**05/19/2015**  Annual review with the following updates:

Guideline 2 [Multidetector (Multidetector-row/Multislice) Computed Cardiac...
UHC MA Coverage Summary: Computed Tomographic Angiography (CTA)/Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT) of the Chest
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Tomography (MDCT)] - Added reference to the MCG™ Care Guidelines, 19th edition Cardiac CT Scan  ACG: A-0020 (AC)
Guideline 3 [Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT)] - Added reference to the MCG™ Care Guidelines, 19th edition Cardiac CT Scan  ACG: A-0020 (AC)

04/01/2015  Replaced references to “Milliman Care Guidelines” with “MCG™ Care Guidelines”
05/20/2014  Annual review; updated definition of Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT) and Multidetector Row Computed Tomography (MDCT).
06/24/2013  Annual review; no updates.
06/18/2012  Guidelines #2 & Guidelines # 3 - updated the reference/link to the UnitedHealthcare Physician Guidelines Evidenced Based regarding Imaging.
12/05/2011  LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A) updated.
06/30/2011  Annual review; no updates.

V. ATTACHMENT(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>States</th>
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<tr>
<td>L33423</td>
<td>Cardiac Computed Tomography &amp; Angiography (CCTA)</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Palmetto GBA</td>
<td>NC, SC, VA, WV</td>
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<tr>
<td>L35045</td>
<td>Cardiac Computed Tomography &amp; Angiography (CCTA)</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Palmetto GBA</td>
<td>NC, SC, VA, WV</td>
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<td>L33559</td>
<td>Cardiac Computed Tomography (CCT) and Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>National Government Services, Inc.</td>
<td>IL, MN, CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT, WI</td>
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<td>L33947</td>
<td>Cardiac Computed Tomography (CCT) and Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>CGS Administrators, LLC</td>
<td>KY, OH</td>
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<td>L33282</td>
<td>Computed Tomographic Angiography of the Chest, Heart and Coronary Arteries</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>First Coast Service Options, Inc.</td>
<td>FL, PR, VI</td>
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<td>L35121</td>
<td>Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)</td>
<td>MAC - Part A and B</td>
<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation</td>
<td>IN, IA, KS, MI, MO, NE</td>
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<td>L35121</td>
<td>Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)</td>
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<td>L33629</td>
<td>Non-covered Services</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>National Government Services, Inc</td>
<td>CT, IL, MA, ME, MN, NH, NY, RI, VT, WI</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Use the applicable LCD based on member’s residence/place of service AND type of service.

CMS website accessed May 2, 2017
**Attachment A - LCD Availability Grid**

Multidetector Computed Tomography (MDCT)/Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT)
(CPT codes 75571, 75572, 75573 and 75574)

CMS website accessed May 2, 2017

IMPORTANT NOTE: Use the applicable LCD based on member’s residence/place of service AND type of service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
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End of Attachment A