



METCARE™

2009

NUCLEAR CARDIAC IMAGING/MYOCARDIAL PERFUSION STUDY (SPECT) CRITERIA (MEDICARE)

- Thallium
- Sestamibi – Technetium
- Cardolite

General: Two general purposes for cardiac perfusion imaging:

- Diagnose the cause of chest pain (**exercise stress testing without nuclear imaging is first test of choice**) unless there are positive risk factors; **OR**
- Assessment of known (CAD)
 - Severity of disease; **OR**
 - Family history: Hyperlipidemia, obesity, smoking, HBP&DM – at least 3 factors; **OR**
 - Diabetic patient with chest pain; **OR**
 - HBP patients on beta blockers; **OR**
 - Perimenopausal female, menopausal female with atypical chest pain.

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Pharmacological stress testing: Persantine/Adenosine/Dobutamine

Used to evaluate patients for CAD who are absolutely contraindicated to exercise is a covered benefit when **ONE** of the following criteria is met:

- Pre-surgical work up for major vascular surgery in patients with suspected CAD; **OR**
- Physical limitation to exercise such as shortness of breath, back pain, excess obesity, etc. ; **OR**
- Evaluation of patients for CAD who are absolutely contraindicated to exercise; **OR**
- Acute heart attack, unstable angina, uncontrolled abnormal heart beats, heart block, pulmonary hypertension, severe systemic hypertension; **OR**
- Negative, uninterpretable or equivocal treadmill test hypertension; **OR**
- Abnormal EKG of LBBB, WPW, ST depression, ventricular pacing, poor R wave progression.