

## **AIM Specialty Health clinical guidelines update: advanced imaging of the heart**

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Effective for dates of service on and after January 28, 2019, the following updates will apply to the AIM Specialty Health© (AIM), clinical appropriateness guidelines: advanced imaging appropriate use criteria: imaging of the heart. AIM is a separate company.

### **Carotid duplex ultrasound**

- Criteria removed for evaluation of syncope in patients with suspected extracranial arterial disease
- New criteria address evaluation of TAVR (TAVI) in patients with suspected or established extracranial arterial disease

### **Myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI), stress echocardiography, cardiac PET, and coronary CT angiography (CCTA)**

- Clarifications address exercise-induced syncope and exercise-induced dizziness, lightheadedness or near syncope in symptomatic patients with suspected coronary artery disease

### **MPI, stress echocardiography, cardiac PET**

- Criteria added to allow annual surveillance of coronary artery disease in patients with established CAD post-cardiac transplant
- Clarified definition of established coronary artery disease when diagnosed by CCTA
  - more restrictive for patients diagnosed with coronary artery disease by prior coronary angiography, as FFR must be  $\leq 0.8$
  - more permissive for patients diagnosed with coronary artery disease by CCTA with FFR  $\leq 0.8$  (patients previously excluded)

### **Resting transthoracic echocardiography (TTE)**

- New criteria for evaluation of ventricular function in patients who have undergone cardiac transplantation

## Cardiac MRI

- New criteria allows for annual study to quantify cardiac iron load in chronically ill patients with cardiomyopathy who require frequent blood transfusions (e.g., thalassemia)
- Removed allowance for annual LV function evaluation when echocardiography is suboptimal

As a reminder, ordering and servicing providers may submit pre-service clinical review requests to AIM in one of several ways:

- Access AIM's **ProviderPortal**SM directly at [providerportal.com](http://providerportal.com). Online access is available 24/7 to process orders in real-time, and is the fastest and most convenient way to request authorization.
- Access AIM via the Availity Web Portal at [availity.com](http://availity.com).
- Call the AIM Contact Center toll-free number: 866-714-1107, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For questions related to guidelines, please contact AIM via email at [aim.guidelines@aimspecialtyhealth.com](mailto:aim.guidelines@aimspecialtyhealth.com). Additionally, you may access and download a copy of the current guidelines on [AIM's website](#).

Please note, this program does not apply to the Federal Employee Program® (FEP®).

**URL:** <https://providernews.anthem.com/connecticut/article/aim-specialty-health-clinical-guidelines-update-advanced-imaging-of-the-heart>

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