2017 Cardiology Survival Guide

Chapter 5: Cardiac Imaging

Cardiac MRI services are reported by codes 75557-+75565 (Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging ...).

Be sure you catch that +75565 is an add-on code, which CPT® instructs you to report in addition to the following cardiac MRI codes:

- 75557 — Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material
- 75559 — ... with stress imaging
- 75561 — Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
- 75563 — ... with stress imaging
- +75565 — Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for velocity flow mapping (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure).

Report your cardiac computed tomography (CT) imaging procedures with the following codes:

- 75571 — Computed tomography, heart, without contrast material, with quantitative evaluation of coronary calcium
  **Note:** Code 75571 is specific to calcium scoring, which many payers deny because the test is not generally recognized.

- 75572 — Computed tomography, heart, with contrast material, for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology (including 3D image postprocessing, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed)
  **Note:** Electrophysiologists may use 75572 in advance of atrial fibrillation ablations and left ventricular lead implants. It provides the anatomical information they need to perform these procedures. Providers incorporate these images into the 3D mapping system in the EP lab to use as a roadmap.

- 75573 — Computed tomography, heart, with contrast material, for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology in the setting of congenital heart disease (including 3D image postprocessing, assessment of LV cardiac function, RV structure and function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed)
  **Note:** The key to properly applying 75573 is understanding that it is specific to congenital patients.

- 75574 — Computed tomography angiography, heart, coronary arteries and bypass grafts (when present), with contrast material, including 3D image postprocessing (including evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed)
  **Note:** Code 75574 is the only cardiac CT angiography code. You may use 75574 most often because it is the only one focusing on coronary arteries and grafts.

  **Guidelines:** The CPT® manual provides a few rules for these codes. CPT® states that cardiac CT and coronary CTA include:

  - "Axial source images of the pre-contrast, arterial phase sequence, and venous phase sequence (if performed)"
  - The study’s 2D and 3D reformatted images, including cine review.

  The guidelines also indicate that for cardiac CT and coronary CTA performed with contrast, you should include any quantitative assessment at the same encounter. And be sure to report only one CT heart service per encounter.

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