

August 28, 2009

## **Re: Outpatient Cardiology Diagnostic Imaging Services Update**

Dear Participating Provider:

Scott & White Health Plan is committed to provider collaboration and to continuing to help ensure that our members receive patient care that is consistent with recognized best practices. With that in mind, we'd like to announce upcoming changes to our outpatient diagnostic imaging, radiology quality initiative program administered by American Imaging Management® (AIM®).

The changes include the addition of new cardiac imaging modalities to be reviewed and the collection of post-exam data. An overview of each change is provided below.

### **Implementation of New Cardiac Imaging Modalities**

Beginning **October 5, 2009**, we will require an RQI/order ID number for additional outpatient cardiac diagnostic imaging services **provided on and after October 19, 2009**. We are making this change after evaluating recommendations, new methodologies, and approaches to positively impact appropriateness of care. This is in response to analyses showing utilization trends that are not sustainable over time, and a tripling of cardiology diagnostic imaging services over the past ten years. A complete list of cardiology services requiring RQI/order ID numbers are included with this letter. The newly added services are noted (see column on right of chart).

Note: There is no change in the RQI and quality management process for existing diagnostic imaging services. RQI/order ID number requirements will continue for these existing services.

As with other outpatient diagnostic services, we recommend that servicing providers confirm that an RQI/order ID number has been issued before rendering services. Ordering physicians may request AIM's review in one of the following ways:

- Online through AIM's *ProviderPortal*<sub>SM</sub> at <https://www.providerportal.com>, or,
- Through the American Imaging Management (AIM) Call Center at **866-714-1104**.

### **Exam Results Collection**

Beginning with services provided on and after **October 19, 2009**, we request that either the ordering or servicing provider enter online the results of the cardiac imaging study requested. The following post-delivery questions and response options will be asked for every exam (including MPI, blood pool imaging/MUGA, echocardiography, as well as cardiac MRI, PET, and CT/CTA):

1. Categorize the exam results (choose one).
  - Normal
  - Abnormal (related to reason examination ordered)
  - Abnormal (unrelated to reason examination ordered)
  - Inconclusive

2. Did this study conclude the investigation for the suspected diagnosis that prompted the test or was subsequent imaging required?
  - Concluded investigation
  - Subsequent imaging required

Reports categorizing this data will aid us in our clinical review of future cases as well as in our quality management initiatives.

We believe the changes that we have made to the cardiac imaging program further our objectives of providing a clinically appropriate, consistent and efficient case review process. For more information about our diagnostic imaging-RQI program, including the clinical guidelines for the services discussed above, visit the AIM home page at [www.americanimaging.net](http://www.americanimaging.net). For further questions/clarification regarding the additional outpatient cardiac diagnostic imaging services, or SWHP authorization requirements, please contact SWHP Health Services Division Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm at 254-298-3088/888-316-7947. For general questions related to the RQI Program, please contact the SWHP Customer Service Center at 800-321-7947.

Scott & White Health Plan Provider Relations

Enclosure

## Cardiology CPT® Outpatient Diagnostic Imaging Codes

The following list identifies the outpatient cardiac diagnostic imaging services currently requiring RQI/Order numbers through American Imaging Management® (AIM®), as well as the echocardiography modalities that, for services rendered on and after **October 19, 2009**, will require RQI/Order numbers through AIM. Use one of the following options to contact AIM.

- AIM's *ProviderPortal*<sub>SM</sub> at <https://www.providerportal.com>
- AIM's Call Center at **866-714-1104**

**Note: CPT codes in bold font are primary codes for the modality grouper requiring review through AIM.**

Cardiology CPT®* Outpatient Diagnostic Imaging Codes			
Grouper Name	CPT Codes	Modality	Existing or new to the process as of (date)
Cardiac MRI	75557 <b>75561</b> 75558 <b>75562</b> 75559 <b>75563</b> 75560 <b>75564</b>	MRI	Existing today Requires RQI/Order ID number
Myocardial Perfusion Imaging	<b>78460</b> <b>78465</b> 78461 78464	Nuclear Medicine	Existing today Requires RQI/Order ID number
Infarct Scan	<b>78466</b> <b>78468</b> 78469	Nuclear Medicine	Existing today Requires RQI/Order ID number
Cardiac Blood Pool Imaging	<b>78472</b> <b>78483</b> 78473 <b>78494</b> 78481	Nuclear Medicine	Existing today Requires RQI/Order ID number
Cardiac PET Imaging	<b>78459</b> <b>78491</b> 78492	PET	Existing today Requires RQI/Order ID number
Coronary CT & CTA	<b>0144T</b> <b>0148T</b> <b>0145T</b> <b>0149T</b> <b>0146T</b> <b>0150T</b> <b>0147T</b>	CT	Existing today Requires RQI/Order ID number
<b>Stress Echocardiography (SE)</b>	<b>93350</b> <b>93351</b>	Echocardiography	<b>Requires RQI/Order ID number as of 10/5/2009</b>
<b>Resting Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE)</b>	<b>93303</b> <b>93308</b> <b>93304</b> <b>93306</b> <b>93307</b>	Echocardiography	<b>Requires RQI/Order ID number as of 10/5/09</b>
<b>Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE)</b>	<b>93312</b> <b>93317</b> <b>93313</b> <b>93314</b> <b>93315</b> <b>93316</b>	Echocardiography	<b>Requires RQI/Order ID number as of 10/5/09</b>

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.