

# **CT Cardiac Calcium Score**



## **What is a CT Cardiac Score?**

A cardiac CT scan is a non-invasive way of obtaining information about the location and extent of calcified plaque in the coronary arteries—the vessels that supply oxygen-containing blood to the heart wall.

## **CPT Code**

75571 or \$99 Self Pay

## **Indications**

Screening for Coronary Artery Disease.

## **Contraindications**

Pregnancy.

## **How Does Your Patient Prepare?**

Avoid caffeine and smoking for four hours prior to the exam.

## **What Happens During the Test?**

Your patient will be asked to change into a gown removing clothing and jewelry. The patient will lie on his back on the exam table. Electrodes will be attached to the patient's chest and to an electrocardiograph (ECG) machine that records the electrical activity of the heart. The patient will be asked to remain very still during the exam and be given breathing instructions. There are no restrictions following the test.

The actual scanning time is usually 10 minutes.

## The Results

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within 1 business day

(Information adapted from [www.radiologyinfo.org](http://www.radiologyinfo.org) and Dr. Marvin Walker)

*This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.*