



CT Cardiac Calcium Scoring

Dear Referring Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that CT Cardiac Calcium Scoring is now available on an outpatient basis at three locations with Rhode Island Medical Imaging (RIMI). This exam is performed on our state-of-the-art CT scanners in Cranston, Johnston, and Wakefield. The scan quality is excellent and the exam is often a better indicator of coronary events than cholesterol screening and other tests. **The CPT Code is 75571, however, Authorization is not required for this exam and the self-pay rate is \$100.00.**

The scan itself is a non-contrast CT performed with EKG electrodes on the patient's chest to monitor heart rate. I or another RIMI radiologist with subspecialty fellowship training in thoracic and cardiac imaging will be interpreting the exam.

The calcium score, also known as an Agatston score, is based on the amount of plaque found via the CT scan. This number is then turned into a percentage ranking based on a patient's age and gender. The score directly corresponds to their likelihood of having heart disease or a heart attack.

New guidelines from the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) suggest that if the calcium score is zero in patients between 40-75 years of age, treatment with statin therapy may be withheld or delayed, except in those patients with specific risk factors such as smoking, diabetes or a strong family history of premature atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

Score	Plaque Status	Risk Factors
0	No plaque	Low heart attack risk
0-10	Slight amount of plaque	Less than a 10% chance of heart disease
11-100	Small amount of plaque	Mild heart disease is present and a moderate chance of heart attack exists. Lifestyle changes recommended and additional tests or treatment may be necessary.
101-400	Moderate amount of plaque	Heart disease is present. Plaque may be blocking an artery. Moderate to high risk of heart attack. Additional tests and treatment may be necessary.
401+	Large amount of plaque	Heart disease is present. Over 90% chance of blocked artery. High risk of heart attack. Additional tests and treatment are necessary.

Based on the calcium score and underlying risk factors, follow-up exams can be scheduled every 2-5 years.

I am excited about our outpatient CT Cardiac Calcium Scoring service and would be more than happy to address any questions or concerns that you have at any time. Please feel free to call or email questions as they arise. We sincerely thank you for referring your patients to RIMI.

Best regards,

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