

CIGNA MEDICAL COVERAGE POLICIES- RADIOLOGY

Pediatric Cardiac Imaging Guidelines

Effective Date: February 3, 2026



Instructions for use

The following coverage policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna. Coverage policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard Cigna benefit plans and are used by medical directors and other health care professionals in making medical necessity and other coverage determinations. Please note the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these coverage policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a coverage policy.

In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the coverage policy. In the absence of federal or state coverage mandates, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of:

1. The terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service
2. Any applicable laws and regulations
3. Any relevant collateral source materials including coverage policies
4. The specific facts of the particular situation

Coverage policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines.

This evidence-based medical coverage policy has been developed by EviCore, Inc. Some information in this coverage policy may not apply to all benefit plans administered by Cigna.

These guidelines include procedures EviCore does not review for Cigna. Please refer to the [Cigna CPT code list](#) for the current list of high-tech imaging procedures that EviCore reviews for Cigna.

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General Information

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General Guidelines (PEDCD-1.0)

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Heart disease in the pediatric population involves predominantly congenital lesions. Pediatric individuals can have acquired heart disease unique to children. For those diseases which occur in both pediatric and adult populations, differences exist in management due to individual age, comorbidities, and differences in disease natural history between children and adults.

Pediatric Cardiac Imaging Appropriate Clinical Evaluation

- Prior to considering advanced imaging (CT, MR, Nuclear Medicine) or echocardiogram, a pertinent clinical evaluation should be performed, including the following (both):
 - A detailed history, physical examination, or meaningful technological contact (telehealth visit, telephone call, electronic mail or messaging)
 - A review of appropriate diagnostic studies (laboratory, EKG, echocardiogram, and other diagnostic imaging)
- A recent clinical evaluation is not needed prior to advanced imaging (CT, MR, Nuclear Medicine) or echocardiogram if **any** of the following apply:
 - Individual is undergoing guideline-supported scheduled imaging evaluation.
 - Echocardiogram is being performed at the first cardiology visit for an appropriate indication as stated in these guidelines.
 - Routine imaging is anticipated at the next visit (e.g., one year follow-up echocardiogram for a 10 year old with a VSD).
- Advanced imaging of the heart and echocardiogram are medically necessary in any of the following:
 - Individuals who have documented active clinical signs or symptoms of disease involving the heart
 - As follow-up for findings on echocardiograms
 - See **Initial Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) Indications (PEDCD-8.2)** for indications for initial echocardiogram in asymptomatic individuals
- Repeat imaging studies of the heart are **not** medically necessary unless one of the following applies:
 - Repeat imaging is considered medically necessary in a specific guideline section.
 - There is evidence for progression of disease.
 - There is new onset of disease with documentation of how repeat imaging will affect individual management or treatment decisions.

- See **Repeat Transthoracic Echocardiography Indications (PEDCD-8.3)** for indications for repeat echocardiogram in asymptomatic individuals
- Asymptomatic individuals with exposure to cardiotoxic drugs can have serial echocardiograms as per **Cardiotoxicity and Echocardiography (PEDONC-19.2)** in the Pediatric Oncology Imaging Guideline.
- Advanced imaging and echocardiogram is **not** medically necessary, in the absence of other appropriate indications listed in these guidelines, for **any** of the following:
 - Individuals starting ADHD medications
 - To screen asymptomatic individuals for disorders involving the heart

Pediatric Cardiac Imaging Modality General Considerations

- MRI
 - MRI and MRA studies are frequently medically necessary for evaluation of congenital heart defects not well visualized on echocardiography, thoracic arteries and veins not visualized on echocardiography, cardiomyopathies, and right ventricular disease, as well as in follow-up for these indications.
 - Due to the length of time for image acquisition and the need for the individual to be motionless during the acquisition, anesthesia is required for almost all infants and young children (age <7 years), as well as older children with delays in development or maturity. In this population, MRI imaging sessions should be planned with a goal of avoiding a short-interval repeat anesthesia exposure due to insufficient information using the following considerations:
 - MRI is typically performed without and with contrast.
 - If multiple body areas are supported for the clinical condition being evaluated, MRI of all necessary body areas should be obtained concurrently in the same anesthesia session.
- CT
 - CT is primarily used to evaluate the coronary and great vessels in congenital heart disease if cardiac MR is contraindicated.
 - Coding considerations are listed in **CT Heart and Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA) General Considerations (PEDCD-10.1)**
- Ultrasound
 - Echocardiography is the primary modality used to evaluate the anatomy and function of the pediatric heart and is generally indicated before considering other imaging modalities.
 - Coding considerations are listed in **Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) Coding (PEDCD-8.1)**
- Nuclear Medicine

- SPECT, PET stress may be medically necessary for individuals with anomalous CA, angina chest pain, and follow-up for Kawasaki and MIS-C. See specific sections for those indications.
- Multi Gated Acquisition (MUGA) studies (CPT® 78472, CPT® 78473, CPT® 78481, CPT® 78483, CPT® 78494, or CPT® 78496) are rarely performed in pediatrics but can be approved for the following:
 - Certain pediatric oncology individuals when echocardiography is insufficient: See: **Appropriate Clinical Evaluations (PEDONC-1.2)** for imaging guidelines.
 - Quantitation of left ventricular function when recent echocardiogram shows ejection fraction of <50% and MUGA results will impact acute patient care decisions.
- SPECT/CT fusion imaging involves SPECT (MPI) imaging and CT for optimizing location, accuracy, and attenuation correction combines functional and anatomic information.
 - There is currently no evidence-based data to formulate appropriateness criteria for SPECT/CT fusion imaging.
 - Combined use of nuclear imaging, including SPECT, along with diagnostic CT (fused SPECT/CT) is considered investigational.
- Central C-V Hemodynamics (CPT® 78414) is not an imaging study and is an outdated examination.
- Cardiac Shunt Detection (CPT® 78428) is rarely performed in pediatrics but is medically necessary for individuals in whom Cardiac MR is not diagnostic.
 - Calculation of left and right ventricular ejection fractions
 - Assessment of wall motion
 - Quantitation of right to left shunts
- Myocardial Tc-99m Pyrophosphate Imaging
 - Infarct Avid Myocardial Imaging studies (CPT® 78466, CPT® 78468, and CPT® 78469), or Myocardial Tc-99m Pyrophosphate Imaging, although still available, has variable sensitivity and specificity for identifying infarcted myocardial tissue, and the current use for this indication is limited
 - CPT® 78466, CPT® 78468, and CPT® 78469, CPT® 78800 or CPT® 78803 may be used for identification of myocardial ATTR (transthyretin) amyloidosis. See **Myocardial Tc-99m Pyrophosphate Imaging in Cardiac Amyloidosis (CD-3.8)**

Pediatric Age

- Age definitions for pediatric individuals (for purpose of these guidelines)
 - Infant (birth through 12 months)
 - Neonate or newborn (birth through 28 days)
 - Child 1-18 years

- Pre-adolescent child 1-10 years
- Adolescent 11-18 years
- Children or Pediatric refers to all individuals ages birth-18 years

MUGA (Multi Gated Acquisition) – Blood Pool Imaging	CPT®
Myocardial Imaging, infarct avid, planar, qualitative or quantitative	78466
Myocardial Imaging, infarct avid, planar, qualitative or quantitative with ejection fraction by first pass technique	78468
Myocardial Imaging, infarct avid, planar, qualitative or quantitative tomographic SPECT with or without quantification	78469
Radiopharmaceutical Localization Imaging Limited area	78800
Radiopharmaceutical Localization Imaging SPECT Note: When reporting CPT® 78803, planar imaging of a limited area or multiple areas should be included with the SPECT	78803

Supporting Information

Individuals who are <18 years old should be imaged according to the Pediatric Cardiac Imaging Guidelines and the general Cardiac Imaging Guidelines. Individuals who are age ≥18 years should be imaged according to the Cardiac Imaging Guidelines, except where directed otherwise by a specific guideline section. Adult individuals who also have congenital heart disease should be imaged by **Congenital heart disease – General Information (CD-11.1)** in the general Cardiac Imaging Guidelines.

The guidelines listed in this section for certain specific indications are not intended to be all-inclusive; clinical judgment remains paramount, and variance from these guidelines may be appropriate and warranted for specific clinical situations.

Procedure Codes Associated with Cardiac or PVD Imaging

MRI/MRA	CPT®
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material	75557

MRI/MRA	CPT®
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material; with stress imaging	75559
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences	75561
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences; with stress imaging	75563
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for velocity flow mapping (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	75565

CT	CPT®
Computed tomography, heart, without contrast material, with quantitative evaluation of coronary calcium	75571
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)	75572
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)	75573

CTA	CPT®
Noninvasive estimate of coronary fractional flow reserve (FFR) derived from augmentative software analysis of the data set from a coronary computed tomography angiography, with interpretation and report by a physician or other qualified health care professional	75580

CTA	CPT®
Computed tomographic 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)	75574
Computed tomographic angiography, abdominal aorta and bilateral iliofemoral lower extremity runoff, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing	75635

Nuclear Medicine	CPT®
Determination of central c-v hemodynamics (non-imaging) (e.g., ejection fraction with probe technique) with or without pharmacologic intervention or exercise, single or multiple determinations	78414
Cardiac shunt detection	78428
Myocardial imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), metabolic evaluation study (including ventricular wall motion[s] and/or ejection fraction[s], when performed), single study; with concurrently acquired computed tomography transmission scan	78429
Myocardial imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), perfusion study (including ventricular wall motion[s] and/or ejection fraction[s], when performed); single study, at rest or stress (exercise or pharmacologic), with concurrently acquired computed tomography transmission scan	78430
Myocardial imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), perfusion study (including ventricular wall motion[s] and/or ejection fraction[s], when performed); multiple studies at rest and stress (exercise or pharmacologic), with concurrently acquired computed tomography transmission scan	78431

Nuclear Medicine	CPT®
Myocardial imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), combined perfusion with metabolic evaluation study (including ventricular wall motion[s] and/or ejection fraction[s], when performed), dual radiotracer (e.g., myocardial viability);	78432
Myocardial imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), combined perfusion with metabolic evaluation study (including ventricular wall motion[s] and/or ejection fraction[s], when performed), dual radiotracer (e.g., myocardial viability); with concurrently acquired computed tomography transmission scan	78433
Absolute quantitation of myocardial blood flow (AQMBF), positron emission tomography (PET), rest and pharmacologic stress (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	78434
Myocardial perfusion imaging, tomographic (SPECT) (including attenuation correction, qualitative or quantitative wall motion, ejection fraction by first pass or gated technique, additional quantification, when performed); single study, at rest or stress (exercise or pharmacologic)	78451
Myocardial perfusion imaging, tomographic (SPECT) (including attenuation correction, qualitative or quantitative wall motion, ejection fraction by first pass or gated technique, additional quantification, when performed); multiple studies, at rest and/or stress (exercise or pharmacologic) and/or redistribution and/or rest reinjection	78452
Myocardial perfusion imaging, planar (including qualitative or quantitative wall motion, ejection fraction by first pass or gated technique, additional quantification, when performed); single study, at rest or stress (exercise or pharmacologic)	78453
Myocardial perfusion imaging, planar (including qualitative or quantitative wall motion, ejection fraction by first pass or gated technique, additional quantification, when performed); multiple studies, at rest and/or stress (exercise or pharmacologic) and/or redistribution and/or rest reinjection	78454

Nuclear Medicine	CPT®
Myocardial imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), metabolic evaluation study (including ventricular wall motion and/or ejection fraction, when performed), single study	78459
Myocardial imaging, infarct avid, planar; qualitative or quantitative	78466
Myocardial imaging, infarct avid, planar; with ejection fraction by first pass technique	78468
Myocardial imaging, infarct avid, planar; tomographic SPECT with or without quantification	78469
Cardiac blood pool imaging, gated equilibrium; planar, single study at rest or stress (exercise and/or pharmacologic), wall motion study plus ejection fraction, with or without additional quantitative processing	78472
Cardiac blood pool imaging, gated equilibrium; multiple studies, wall motion study plus ejection fraction, at rest and stress (exercise and/or pharmacologic), with or without additional quantification	78473
Cardiac blood pool imaging (planar), first pass technique; single study, at rest or with stress (exercise and/or pharmacologic), wall motion study plus ejection fraction, with or without quantification	78481
Cardiac blood pool imaging (planar), first pass technique; multiple studies, at rest and with stress (exercise and/or pharmacologic), wall motion study plus ejection fraction, with or without quantification	78483
Myocardial imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), perfusion (including ventricular wall motion and/or ejection fraction, when performed); single study at rest or stress (exercise or pharmacologic)	78491
Myocardial imaging, positron emission tomography (PET), perfusion (including ventricular wall motion and/or ejection fraction, when performed); multiple studies at rest and/or stress (exercise or pharmacologic)	78492

Nuclear Medicine	CPT®
Cardiac blood pool imaging, gated equilibrium, SPECT, at rest, wall motion study plus ejection fraction, with or without quantitative processing	78494
Cardiac blood pool imaging, gated equilibrium, single study, at rest, with right ventricular ejection fraction by first pass technique (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	78496
Quantitative differential pulmonary perfusion, including imaging when performed	78597
Quantitative differential pulmonary perfusion and ventilation (e.g., aerosol or gas), including imaging when performed	78598
Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (includes vascular flow and blood pool imaging, when performed); planar, single area (e.g., head, neck, chest, pelvis), single day imaging	78800
Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (includes vascular flow and blood pool imaging, when performed); planar, 2 or more areas (e.g., abdomen and pelvis, head and chest), 1 or more days imaging or single area imaging over 2 or more days	78801
Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (includes vascular flow and blood pool imaging, when performed); planar, whole body, single day imaging	78802
Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (includes vascular flow and blood pool imaging, when performed); tomographic (SPECT), single area (e.g., head, neck, chest, pelvis), single day imaging	78803
Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (includes vascular flow and blood pool imaging, when performed); planar, whole body, requiring 2 or more days imaging	78804

Nuclear Medicine	CPT®
Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (includes vascular flow and blood pool imaging, when performed); tomographic (SPECT) with concurrently acquired computed tomography (CT) transmission scan for anatomical review, localization and determination/detection of pathology, single area (e.g., head, neck, chest, pelvis), single day imaging	78830
Myocardial sympathetic innervation imaging, planar qualitative and quantitative assessment	0331T
Myocardial sympathetic innervation imaging, planar qualitative and quantitative assessment; with tomographic SPECT	0332T

Ultrasound	CPT®
Transthoracic echocardiography for congenital cardiac anomalies; complete	93303
Transthoracic echocardiography for congenital cardiac anomalies; follow-up or limited study	93304
Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, complete, with spectral Doppler echocardiography, and with color flow Doppler echocardiography	93306
Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, complete, without spectral or color Doppler echocardiography	93307
Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, follow-up or limited study	93308
Echocardiography, transesophageal, real-time with image documentation (2D) (with or without M-mode recording); including probe placement, image acquisition, interpretation and report	93312

Ultrasound	CPT®
Echocardiography, transesophageal, real-time with image documentation (2D) (with or without M-mode recording); placement of transesophageal probe only	93313
Echocardiography, transesophageal, real-time with image documentation (2D) (with or without M-mode recording); image acquisition, interpretation and report only	93314
Transesophageal echocardiography for congenital cardiac anomalies; including probe placement, image acquisition, interpretation and report	93315
Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) for congenital cardiac anomalies; placement of transesophageal probe only	93316
Transesophageal echocardiography for congenital cardiac anomalies; placement of transesophageal probe only	93317
3D echocardiographic imaging and postprocessing during transesophageal echocardiography, or during transthoracic echocardiography for congenital cardiac anomalies, for the assessment of cardiac structure(s) (e.g., cardiac chambers and valves, left atrial appendage, interatrial septum, interventricular septum) and function, when performed (List separately in addition to code for echocardiographic imaging) Code with (93303-93304, 93312, 93314, 93315, 93317, 93350-93351)	+93319
Doppler echocardiography, pulsed wave and/or continuous wave with spectral display (List separately in addition to codes for echocardiographic imaging); complete	+93320
Doppler echocardiography, pulsed wave and/or continuous wave with spectral display (List separately in addition to codes for echocardiographic imaging); follow-up or limited study (List separately in addition to codes for echocardiographic imaging)	+93321
Doppler echocardiography color flow velocity mapping (List separately in addition to codes for echocardiography)	+93325

Ultrasound	CPT®
Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, during rest and cardiovascular stress test using treadmill, bicycle exercise and/or pharmacologically induced stress, with interpretation and report;	93350
Echocardiography, transthoracic, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, during rest and cardiovascular stress test using treadmill, bicycle exercise and/or pharmacologically induced stress, with interpretation and report; including performance of continuous electrocardiographic monitoring, with supervision by a physician or other qualified health care professional	93351
Use of echocardiographic contrast agent during stress echocardiography (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	+93352
Myocardial strain imaging using speckle tracking-derived assessment of myocardial mechanics (List separately in addition to codes for echocardiography imaging)	+93356
Transthoracic echocardiography with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, for congenital cardiac anomalies; complete	C8921
Transthoracic echocardiography with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, for congenital cardiac anomalies; follow-up or limited study	C8922
Transthoracic echocardiography with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, complete, without spectral or color doppler echocardiography	C8923
Transthoracic echocardiography with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording when performed, follow-up or limited study	C8924

Ultrasound	CPT®
Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, real time with image documentation (2D) (with or without M-mode recording); including probe placement, image acquisition, interpretation and report	C8925
Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, for congenital cardiac anomalies; including probe placement, image acquisition, interpretation and report	C8926
Transthoracic echocardiography with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, during rest and cardiovascular stress test using treadmill, bicycle exercise and/or pharmacologically induced stress, with interpretation and report	C8928
Transthoracic echocardiography with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, complete, with spectral doppler echocardiography, and with color flow doppler echocardiography	C8929
Transthoracic echocardiography, with contrast, or without contrast followed by with contrast, real-time with image documentation (2D), includes M-mode recording, when performed, during rest and cardiovascular stress test using treadmill, bicycle exercise and/or pharmacologically induced stress, with interpretation and report; including performance of continuous electrocardiographic monitoring, with physician supervision	C8930
Myocardial contrast perfusion echocardiography, at rest or with stress, for assessment of myocardial ischemia or viability (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	+0439T

Health Equity Considerations

Health equity is the highest level of health for all individuals; health inequity is the avoidable difference in health status or distribution of health resources due to the social

conditions in which individuals are born, grow, live, work, and age. Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks. Examples include the following: safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods; racism, discrimination, and violence; education, job opportunities, and income; access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities; access to clean air and water; and language and literacy skills.

References (PEDCD-1.0)

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Congenital Heart Disease

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Congenital Heart Disease General Information (PEDCD-2.1)

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- Congenital heart disease accounts for the majority of cardiac problems occurring in the pediatric population. Individuals may be diagnosed any time spanning prenatal evaluation to adolescence. For diagnostic and surveillance imaging of individuals over 18 years of age, see **Congenital heart disease – General Information (CD-11.1)** in the general Cardiac Imaging Guidelines.
- There are a number of variables that influence the modality and timing of imaging individuals with congenital heart disease, which results in a high degree of individuality in determining the schedule for imaging these individuals, including:
 - Gestational age
 - Individual's age
 - Physiologic effects of the defect
 - Status of interventions (catheterization and surgical)
 - Rate of individual's growth
 - Stability of the defect on serial imaging
 - Comorbid conditions
 - Activity level
- Age definitions for pediatric individuals (for purpose of these guidelines)
 - Infant (birth through 12 months)
 - Neonate or newborn (birth through 28 days)
 - Child 1-18 years
 - Pre-adolescent child 1-10 years
 - Adolescent 11-18 years
 - Children or Pediatric refers to all individuals ages birth-18 years
- Newborns (neonates) have special considerations as they have potentially rapidly changing physiology.
 - Newborns with any concerns for ductal dependent lesion can have echocardiograms at any frequency.
 - Newborns have changes in pulmonary vascular resistance that can affect clinical status rapidly and may require more frequent imaging.
 - Neonatal physiology can extend to the first couple of months of life.
 - Newborns can have one repeat echo, if prior echocardiogram is abnormal or equivocal (either in the hospital or as newborn outpatient).

- Individuals can have an echocardiogram at that time for **Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms**. This can include:
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Chest discomfort
 - Percentile weight loss
 - Weight gain
 - Poor feeding
 - Tachypnea
 - Tachycardia
 - CHF signs on exam
 - Change in EKG, Pulse ox, or laboratory values
- An additional study can be approved prior to the next routine interval to assess for more rapid change if the change in clinical status involves the echocardiogram itself, such as:
 - Increasing stenosis gradient
 - Increasing regurgitation amount
 - Increasing pulmonary vascular resistance
 - Decreased ventricular function
 - Change in ductal status
- In individuals that can have both Cardiac MR or Cardiac CT and/or MRA Chest or CTA Chest, this is abbreviated as CMR/CT-MRA/CCTA.
- Individuals with medication adjustments may require additional imaging at that time.
 - Pediatric dosing tends to be mg/kg or mcg/kg. Adjusting the dose to the same mg/kg would not be considering a dosing change for imaging.
 - More than one echocardiogram is considered medically necessary in infants due to rapid growth in this age group, changing physiology, pulmonary vascular resistance, ductal size and weight changes, because dose adjustments are done by weight, and dose response and may require more than one echocardiogram during a medication adjustment.
- Heart surgery
 - TTE is considered medically necessary one month prior to heart surgery. Depending on lesion, MR/CT Cardiac and/or Chest may also be included.
 - Can have an echocardiogram within one month post-operative
 - Cardiac MRI/CCT if prior echocardiogram is equivocal
- MRA/CTA Chest can be performed if prior echocardiogram is equivocal and there are issues regarding aortic arch or pulmonary arteries or veins.
- In individuals who have a documented equivocal echocardiogram due to a technical factor (i.e., poor acoustic windows due to body habitus) which will likely be present

on subsequent echocardiograms, a Cardiac MR/CT, or MRA/CTA Chest may be done with the frequency of echoes, if done instead of an echo.

- MRA/CTA Chest if thoracic issue not seen on echo
- For routine non-invasive imaging for a specific lesion see **Imaging and Surveillance per Congenital Lesion (PEDCD-2.4)**
- For catheterizations see section **Cardiac Catheterization - Indications (PEDCD-11.2)**
- **Individuals with Pulmonary hypertension with CHD** should be reviewed for both their lesion and for PHT in section **Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension General (PEDCD-7.1)**

Congenital Heart Disease Coding (PEDCD-2.2)

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Congenital Heart Disease Echocardiography Coding (PEDCD-2.2.1)

- **Any** of the following echocardiography code combinations are appropriate for re-evaluation of individuals with known congenital heart disease:
 - CPT® 93303, CPT® 93320, and CPT® 93325
 - CPT® 93304, CPT® 93321, and CPT® 93325
 - CPT® 93303
 - CPT® 93304
- CPT® 93306 is not medically necessary in the evaluation of known congenital heart disease.

Congenital Heart Disease imaging per modality (PEDCD-2.2.2)

Echocardiogram

- Transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE)
 - TTE for congenital cardiac anomalies; complete (CPT® 93303)
 - TTE for congenital cardiac anomalies; limited study (CPT® 93304)
 - TTE (2D) m-mode recording, complete, with spectral and color flow doppler echocardiography (CPT® 93306)
 - TTE (2D) with or without m-mode recording; complete (CPT® 93307)
 - TTE (2D) with or without m-mode recording; limited study (CPT® 93308)
- Transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE)
 - TEE (2D) including probe placement, imaging, interpretation, and report (CPT® 93312)
 - TEE for congenital cardiac anomalies; including probe placement, imaging, interpretation, and report (CPT® 93315)

MRI

- Cardiac (CMR)
 - Cardiac MRI for morphology and function without contrast (CPT® 75557)
 - Cardiac MRI for morphology and function without and with contrast (CPT® 75561)
 - Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for velocity flow mapping (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (CPT® 75565)
- MRI Chest

- MRI Chest without contrast (CPT® 71550)
- MRI Chest with contrast (CPT® 71551)
- MRI Chest with & without contrast (CPT® 71552)
- MRI Angiography (MRA)
 - MRA Chest (excluding myocardium) with or without contrast (CPT® 71555)

CT

- Cardiac (CCT)
 - CT, Heart, with contrast material, for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology (CPT® 75572)
 - CT, Heart, with contrast material, for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology in the setting of congenital heart disease (CPT® 75573)
- CT Angiography-Cardiac (CCTA)
 - CTA Heart, coronary arteries and bypass grafts (when present), with contrast, including 3D image post processing (CPT® 75574)
- CT-Chest
 - CT Thorax without contrast (CPT® 71250)
 - CT Thorax with contrast (CPT® 71260)
 - CT Thorax without & with contrast (CPT® 71270)
- CT Angiography-Chest (CTA Chest)
 - CTA Chest without and with contrast (CPT® 71275)

Stress Imaging (echo, MRI, MPI)

- Stress echo
 - Echocardiography (TTE), (2D), with or without m-mode, during rest and cardiovascular stress, with interpretation and report (CPT® 93350)
 - Echocardiography (TTE), (2D), m-mode, during rest and cardiovascular stress test using treadmill, bicycle exercise and/or pharmacologically induced stress, with interpretation (CPT® 93351)
- Stress MRI
 - Cardiac MRI for morphology and function without contrast, with stress imaging (CPT® 75559)
 - Cardiac MRI for morphology and function without and with contrast, with stress imaging (CPT® 75563)
- Myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI)
 - MPI, tomographic (SPECT) including attenuation correction, qualitative or quantitative wall motion, ejection fraction by first pass or gated technique, additional quantification, when performed); single study, at rest or stress (exercise or pharmacologic) (CPT® 78451)

- MPI, tomographic (SPECT) (including attenuation correction, qualitative or quantitative wall motion, ejection fraction by first pass or gated technique, additional quantification, when performed); multiple studies, at rest and/or stress (exercise or pharmacologic) and/or redistribution and/or rest reinjection (CPT® 78452)

Pulmonary perfusion imaging

- Pulmonary perfusion imaging (e.g., particulate) (CPT® 78580)
- Pulmonary ventilation (e.g., aerosol or gas) and perfusion imaging (CPT® 78582)
- Quantitative differential pulmonary perfusion, including imaging when performed (CPT® 78597)
- Quantitative differential pulmonary perfusion and ventilation (e.g., aerosol or gas), including imaging when performed (CPT® 78598)

Congenital Heart Disease Modality Considerations (PEDCD-2.3)

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- Echocardiography is the primary imaging modality used for diagnosing and monitoring congenital heart disease and is generally required before other imaging modalities are considered medically necessary unless otherwise indicated in a specific guideline section.
- Cardiac MRI either without contrast (CPT® 75557) or without and with contrast (CPT® 75561) is considered medically necessary when a recent echocardiogram is inconclusive, needs confirmation of findings, or does not completely define the disease (for subsequent follow-up studies, a recent echocardiogram is not a requirement).
 - CPT® 75565 is also medically necessary for individuals with valvular disease or a need to evaluate intracardiac blood flow. These individuals will usually have CPT® 93320 and CPT® 93325 performed with their echocardiography studies.
 - MRA Chest (CPT® 71555) may be added if the aorta or pulmonary artery needs to be visualized beyond the root or if aortopulmonary collaterals, pulmonary veins, or systemic veins need to be visualized.
 - MRA Chest alone (CPT® 71555) should be performed if the individual cannot cooperate with full cardiac MRI exam.
- MRA Chest (CPT® 71555) is considered medically necessary for assessment of the great arteries, pulmonary veins, and systemic chest veins with inconclusive recent echocardiography findings, including the following:
 - Coarctation of the aorta
 - Tetralogy of Fallot
 - Anomalous pulmonary veins
 - Transposition of the great arteries
 - Truncus arteriosus
 - Vascular rings and other lesions of the great arteries, with inconclusive recent echocardiography findings
- CT imaging is considered medically necessary when recent echocardiogram is inconclusive:
 - Report CPT® 75574 for evaluating coronary artery anomalies
 - Report CPT® 75573 for congenital heart disease
 - CPT® 71275 Determination of vascular extra-cardiac anatomy in individuals with complex congenital heart disease

- Pulmonary artery (PA) and Pulmonary vein (PV) assessment
- CTA Chest (CPT® 71275) is considered medically necessary with inconclusive recent echocardiography findings to assess:
 - Coarctation of the aorta
 - Tetralogy of Fallot
 - Anomalous pulmonary veins and other lesions of the great arteries
 - Vascular rings
- Pulmonary perfusion imaging
 - Pulmonary perfusion imaging (e.g., particulate) (CPT® 78580)(CPT® 78582) (CPT® 78597)(CPT® 78598)
 - Individuals with congenital heart disease or suspected congenital heart diseases, who have clinical questions regarding relative pulmonary blood flow, can have perfusion imaging.

Imaging and Surveillance per Congenital Lesion (PEDCD-2.4)

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- Echocardiography is often repeated frequently throughout a pediatric individual's life and can generally be approved regardless of symptoms based on the lesion and age of the individual. These are listed in sections below.
 - Modifiers following guidelines
 - Some congenital conditions may require more frequent testing, especially with more complex heart disease, congestive heart failure, obstructive heart lesions, ductal dependent lesions, changes in clinical status, repeat interventions, and/or in neonates.
 - Any individual being treated for heart failure, with consideration for changing medical regimen can have an echocardiogram.
- Echocardiography is performed during the physician office visit, and these studies should not be denied because of lack of recent contact.
- Adults 18 years and older who also have congenital heart disease should be imaged according to **Congenital heart disease – General Information (CD-11.1)**

Atrial Defects-Secundum ASD, PFO, and Partial Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return (PAPVR), Sinus Venosus Defect (PEDCD-2.4.1)

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For imaging in AVSD see **AVSD (Atrioventricular canal, endocardial cushion defect) (PEDCD-2.4.3)**

PFO (Patent Foramen Ovale)

- Routine surveillance in an asymptomatic individual with PFO is not medically necessary.
 - PFO is a normal variant.
 - In infants, a PFO that is difficult to distinguish from an ASD can be imaged with the same guidelines as used in a small unrepaired ASD (with congenital echo).
 - Individuals with PFOs may have an additional indication for an echocardiogram and can be imaged according to the echocardiogram guidelines in **Repeat Transthoracic Echocardiography Indications (PEDCD-8.3)** and **Congenital Heart Disease Modality Considerations (PEDCD-2.3)** in the general Cardiac Imaging Guidelines.
- Follow-up imaging with an echocardiogram is considered medically necessary when there is documentation of the following:
 - New cardiac symptoms
 - A concern that the last echocardiogram was equivocal for other cardiac issues
 - Question of a clot/embolism that has gone across the PFO
 - Prior echocardiogram did not differentiate the PFO from a secundum ASD
- TTE (CPT® 93306- non congenital echocardiogram) is considered medically necessary when an individual with a prior history of PFO requires an echocardiogram for any new reason.
- Preoperative for PFO closure
 - TTE or TEE
 - Closure is rare in children, TTE or TEE is medically necessary in individuals with transient ischemic attacks or strokes with suspected atrial level shunt.
 - CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA if unclear findings from echocardiogram
- Intra-procedural PFO

- Intra-procedural TEE (CPT® 93355) is not in scope for this program.
- Post procedure PFO closure
 - Post-surgical imaging as follows (PFO generally requires less frequent monitoring post device than ASDs):
 - TTE one time within 30 days of closure
 - TTE one time within 6 months of PFO closure
 - TTE or TEE is considered medically necessary at any time post procedure when there is concern for **any** of the following:
 - Infection
 - Malposition
 - Embolization
 - Persistent shunt
 - For persistent shunt, TTE is considered medically necessary every 3 months until the finding is stable or there is a need for intervention

Secundum ASD, Sinus Venosus ASD, Asymptomatic Isolated (ASD) and Unobstructed (PAPVR)

- Any surgical status
 - TTE is considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of a change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Prior to planned cardiac intervention
 - Repeat any time prior to next allowed study if concern for elevated pulmonary vascular resistance/Pulmonary hypertension
 - CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA
 - If anomalous vein or SV defect cannot be assessed on echo
 - To assess shunt or RV for considering of surgery, or if echocardiogram equivocal
- Unrepaired
 - Newborn with isolated ASD can have one repeat TTE within 2 months
 - Small asymptomatic isolated ASD with no pulmonary hypertension can have TTE as follows:
 - Infant <6 months every three months
 - Infant ≥6 months, repeat at one year.
 - Child Every 3 years
 - Routine surveillance for ≥moderate ASD or PAPVR >1 vein
 - Infant every 3 months
 - Echocardiogram (TTE) every 1 year

- Prior to planned repair of ASD
 - TTE and/or TEE
 - MRI if any residual issues unanswered by echo
- Prior to planned SV defect or PAPVR
 - TTE and/or TEE
 - CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA
- Post- ASD closure with device
 - TTE post device closure
 - 1 week
 - 1 month
 - Every 3 months
 - 1 year
 - Every 2 years
 - May repeat TTE every 3 months until the finding is stable or there is a need for intervention if there is significant residual shunt, valvular or ventricular dysfunction, arrhythmias, and/or pulmonary hypertension
- Post-surgical closure of ASD
 - TTE
 - Within the first month
 - Within the 1st year
 - Every 2 years after the first year study
 - May repeat TTE every 3 months until the finding is stable or there is a need for intervention if significant residual shunt, valvular or ventricular dysfunction, arrhythmias, and/or pulmonary hypertension

Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD)

(PEDCD-2.4.2)

CDP.CHD.0242.A

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All

TTE is considered medically necessary for any of the following:

- Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
- Prior to planned cardiac intervention

Unrepaired

TTE

- Small muscular VSD, No Symptoms, No pulmonary hypertension
 - Newborn 1 repeat within 2 months
 - Infant every 6 months
 - Child every 3 years
- Small VSD in location other than muscular
 - Newborn 1 repeat TTE within 2 months
 - Infant TTE every 6 months
 - Child TTE every year
- Moderate or large VSD on medical management
 - Newborn TTE every 2 weeks
 - Infant every 1-month
 - Child <2 years old TTE every 3 months
 - Child >2 years old TTE every year

Post Repair VSD

TTE

- One study within one month of surgery
- One study within one year of surgery
- After first year of surgery, every 2 years
- Following surgical or device closure in an individual with significant residual shunt, valvular or ventricular dysfunction, arrhythmias, and/or pulmonary hypertension
 - Pre-adolescent Child (age 1-10)-TTE every 3 months
 - Adolescent (age 11-18)- TTE every 6 months

AVSD (Atrioventricular Canal, Endocardial Cushion Defect) (PEDCD-2.4.3)

CDP.CHD.0243.A

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Any surgical status

TTE is medically necessary for any of the following:

- Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
- Prior to planned cardiac intervention

Unrepaired

- Partial/transitional Atrioventricular canal (AVC)
 - TTE is considered medically necessary as follows:
 - Newborn repeat once within the next 2 months
 - Infant every 3 months
 - Child <2 years every 6 months
 - Child ≥2 years, 1 year
- Complete AVC
 - TTE
 - Newborn, TTE repeat within first month
 - Infant <6 weeks, TTE every 2 weeks.
 - Infant ≥6 weeks, TTE monthly

Repaired (TTE)

- Within one month of surgery
- Within 1 year
- Then annually
- May repeat TTE every 3 months until the finding is stable or there is a need for intervention if residual shunt, valvular LV dysfunction, LVOT obstruction, arrhythmia, arrhythmia or PHT, symptoms of heart failure

PDA (Patent Ductus Arteriosus) (PEDCD-2.4.4)

CDP.CHD.0244.A

v1.0.2026

Any surgical status

TTE is considered medically necessary for any of the following:

- Initial evaluation of a change in clinical status or new concerning signs or symptoms
- Prior to planned cardiac intervention

Unrepaired

- Newborn, one repeat TTE in newborn period
 - None, if spontaneously closed
- >1-year-old
 - No Routine surveillance in an asymptomatic individual with a trivial, silent PDA
- Infant
 - Small PDA: TTE every 3 months
 - $\geq$ Moderate PDA: TTE every month
- Pre-adolescent Child
 - Small PDA: every 1 year
 - Moderate PDA: every 6 months
- Adolescent every 3 years

Post PDA device

- Post procedure surveillance (TTE)
 - One echo in first 30 days
 - Annually for first 2 years
 - Every 5 years after first 2 years
- Post procedure LPA stenosis or aortic obstruction
 - Pre-adolescent Child
 - TTE annually
 - MRA/CTA Chest, or (lung perfusion for LPA stenosis) if questions remain unanswered after TTE
 - Adolescents
 - Every two years TTE and

- MRA/CTA Chest, or (lung perfusion for LPA stenosis) if questions remain unanswered after TTE

TAPVR Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return (PEDCD-2.4.5)

CDP.CHD.0245.A

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Any surgical status

- TTE, TEE, CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA, Lung perfusion scan are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Prior to planned cardiac intervention

Unrepaired

- No restrictions

Repaired

- TTE one Post procedure evaluation first 30 days
- TTE every 3 months in infancy
- Pre-adolescent Child: every 1 year
- Adolescence: TTE every 2 years

Ebstein Anomaly and TV Dysplasia (PEDCD-2.4.6)

CDP.CHD.0246.A

v1.0.2026

Any surgical status

- TTE, TEE, CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Prior to planned repair or intervention

Unrepaired

- Newborn repeat study within 30 days.
- Infant
 - Trivial TR is a normal finding
 - Mild TR- TTE every year
 - ≥ Moderate TR- TTE every 3 months
- Child
 - Mild TR every year TTE
 - ≥ Moderate every 6 months

Repaired (TTE)

- Post-op within 30 days
- TTE once a year
- TTE every 6 months if valvular or ventricular dysfunction, or arrhythmias
- Pre-adolescent Child: every year
- Adolescent: every 2 years
- Every 3 months if CHF or atrial arrhythmias

Pulmonary Stenosis (PS) (PEDCD-2.4.7)

CDP.CHD.0247.A

v1.0.2026

Any surgical status

- TTE is considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Prior to planned cardiac procedure
 - If increasing gradient, 1 additional study prior to next allowed study
 - PS in Williams syndrome: See **LVOT Lesions (PEDCD-2.4.10)**

Unrepaired

- Neonate
 - TTE repeat study within 30 days
- Infant PS asymptotic (any severity)
 - TTE every 3 months
- Pre-adolescent Child
 - TTE every 1 year
- Adolescent
 - TTE every 2 years
 - MRA/CTA Chest if pulmonary artery dilation every 3 years

Post procedure (TTE)

- Within 30 days
- Infant
 - TTE every 3 months
- Pre-adolescent Child
 - TTE 1 year
 - Moderate or severe sequelae TTE every 6 months
- Adolescent
 - TTE every 2 years
- Any individual with heart failure, TTE every 3 months

Pulmonary Atresia with Intact Septum (PAIVS) (PEDCD-2.4.8)

CDP.CHD.0248.A

v1.0.2026

Any surgical status

TTE is considered medically necessary for any of the following:

- Prior to planned repair
- Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms

Post procedural: Palliation

- TTE
 - 1 within 30 days
 - Every 1 month until repaired

Post procedural: Complete Repair

- TTE within 30 days post-op
- Any age
 - TTE every three months for CHF
- Infant
 - TTE at 3 months in asymptomatic infant
- Child (all ages)
 - TTE annually
 - Every 6 months if moderate sequelae
- Adolescent (in addition to TTE)
 - CMR/CT and/or CMRA/CTA every 3 years

Mitral Valve Disease (PEDCD-2.4.9)

CDP.CHD.0249.A

v1.0.2026

Any surgical status

- TTE is considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Prior to planned surgery
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms

Unrepaired congenital mitral valve stenosis

- Infant in first three months of life
 - Weekly TTE
- After 3 months (TTE)
 - Every 3 months if mild MS
 - Every month if $\geq$ moderate MS
- Child (TTE)
 - With moderate MS every 3 months until a decision is made to intervene
 - Child with mild symptoms annually

Unrepaired: Congenital Mitral Regurgitation (MR) including Mitral Valve Prolapse

- Infant
 - TTE every 6 months an asymptomatic infant with mild MR
 - TTE every month in asymptomatic infant with $\geq$ moderate MR
- Child
 - TTE every 2 years with mild MR, normal LV size and systolic function
 - TTE every 6 months with $\geq$ moderate MR
 - TTE every 3 years in an asymptomatic with MVP and mild MR

Post procedure, surgical or catheter based

- TTE within 30 days
- Infant
 - TTE every 3 months, mild MS or MR, and no LV dysfunction
 - TTE every month in $\geq$ moderate MS or MR, dilated LV, and no LV dysfunction
- Child
 - TTE annually
 - In a child with normal prosthetic mitral valve function and no LV dysfunction
 - In a child with mild MS or MR, and no LV dysfunction

- TTE every 3 months
 - In a child with $\geq$ moderate MS or MR, dilated LV, and no LV dysfunction
 - In a child with prosthetic mitral valve or ventricular dysfunction, and/or arrhythmias

LVOT Lesions (PEDCD-2.4.10)

CDP.CHD.2410.A

v1.0.2026

Subvalvular Aortic stenosis

Any surgical status

- TTE, TEE, Cardiac MR/CT are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Preoperative
- If aortic dimension z-score >2
 - TTE or Chest CTA/MRA every 2 years if stable z-score
 - TTE or Chest CTA/MRA every 6 months if increasing z-score

Unrepaired

- Newborn- No restrictions
- Infant TTE
 - 1 monthly for any subvalvular AS, but $\leq$ mild AR
- Child
 - TTE one per year if mild AS and no AR
 - TTE every 6 months $\geq$ moderate subvalvular AS and/or mild AR
 - Routine surveillance (6–12 months) in an asymptomatic child with $\geq$ moderate AS and/or $\geq$ moderate AR

Repaired

- Infant
 - TTE within 30 days
 - TTE every 3 months $\leq$ mild MS and or AR
 - TTE every 1 month $\geq$ moderate AS or AR
- Child
 - TTE every 1 year $\leq$ Mild AS or AR
 - TTE every 6 months $\geq$ moderate AS or AR
 - TTE every 3 months if heart failure

Aortic Valve Stenosis and/or regurgitation/ BAV (Bicuspid Aortic Valve)

Any surgical status

- TTE, TEE, Cardiac MR/CT are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Preoperative

Unrepaired

- Infant <3 months
 - TTE 1 per week
- Infant >3 months
 - TTE every 3 months
 - TTE every 1 month, if $\geq$ moderate AS or AR
- Child
 - TTE every 1 year with mild AS/AR and no aortic dilation
 - TTE every 6 months with moderate AS/AR, or aortic dilation.
 - TTE every 3 years if BAV with trivial or mild valvular dysfunction and no aortic root dilation
 - Every 6 months in any as with increasing z-score aortic root ascending aorta

Post procedural

- Within 30 days TTE
- Infant
 - Every 1 month following neonatal intervention with $\geq$ moderate AS or AR or LV dysfunction
 - Every 3 months $\leq$ mild AS/AR and no LV dysfunction
- Child (TTE)
 - 6 months echocardiogram if $\geq$ moderate AS or AR
 - 1-year echocardiogram if $\leq$ mild AS or AR, and/or normal prosthetic valve
 - Every 3 months if CHF or Ventricular dysfunction

Supravalvular AS**Any surgical status**

- TTE, TEE, Cardiac MR/CT, Chest MRA/CTA are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Preoperative
 - Williams syndrome

- Individuals with Williams syndrome can be screened/evaluated for arch abnormalities and pulmonary artery abnormalities and coronary artery abnormalities with the same intervals as TTE referenced below.
- Stress imaging can be done at initial evaluation and for cardiac symptoms, change in clinical status, and/or new concerning signs or symptoms

Unrepaired

- Infant
 - TTE every 3 months
- Child
 - TTE every 1 year
 - TTE every 6 months if moderate AS

Post-operative (TTE)

- Within 30 days
- Every 2 years in mild to moderate AS
- Every 6 months if $\geq$ moderate AS

Aortic Coarctation and IAA (Interrupted Aortic Arch) (PEDCD-2.4.11)

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All individuals

- TTE, MRA/CTA Chest are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Prior to planned surgery/intervention
- Cardiac MR/CT is considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Prior to planned surgery/intervention if any issues remain not answered on echo

Screening for related intracranial aneurysms see **Cerebral Intracranial Aneurysms (HD-12.1)**

Unrepaired Aortic Coarctation

- Newborn, TTE weekly if assessing for ductal closure
- Infant with mild coarctation in absence of PDA
 - Echocardiogram every 3 months
- Child with mild coarctation
 - Echocardiogram every 1 year
 - MRA Chest, CTA Chest every 3 years

Post procedure: surgical or catheter based

- TTE
 - Within 30 days of procedure
 - Every 3 months if mild or no sequelae in first year
 - Every 6 months if mild or no sequelae in the second year
 - Every 1 year after the second year
 - Every 3 months at any time if CHF symptoms or $\geq$ moderate sequelae
- MRA/CTA Chest every 3 years (include Cardiac MR/CT if issues not clarified on echo)
- Screening for intracranial aneurysms see **Cerebral Intracranial Aneurysms (HD-12.1)**

Coronary Anomalies (PEDCD-2.4.12)

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- CCTA or cardiac MRI is considered medically necessary for evaluating coronary artery anomalies and other complex congenital heart disease of cardiac chambers or great vessels.
 - CPT® 75574 for evaluating coronary artery anomalies
 - CPT® 75573 for congenital heart disease
 - CTA Chest (CPT® 71275) can be added to evaluate great vessels.
- Congenital anomalies of the coronary arteries are an important cause of sudden death in pediatric individuals. Coronary arteries may arise from the wrong coronary artery cusp leading to ischemic changes during exercise. These lesions may be found incidentally during a murmur evaluation. Anomalous coronary arteries may be seen on echocardiogram during an evaluation for chest pain or syncope or palpitations. In addition, individuals with no echocardiographic findings but symptoms concerning for angina chest pain may require stress testing.
 - Individuals who have positive echocardiographic findings, regardless of symptoms, and individuals who have classical typical angina chest pain regardless of echocardiographic findings, may require treadmill stress testing, stress imaging, or advanced imaging such as Cardiac MRI, Stress echocardiogram, PET, Cardiac CT, and/or cardiac catheterization.
- Congenital coronary anomalies include abnormal origin of a coronary artery from the PA, anomalous aortic origin of a coronary artery from a different aortic sinus of Valsalva (left coronary artery from the right sinus of Valsalva or right coronary artery from the left sinus of Valsalva), coronary arteriovenous fistula, and coronary artery ostial atresia, all in the setting of normal conotruncal anatomy.
 - Any surgical status
 - Prior to planned surgery, or change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - TTE
 - CMR or CCT
 - Can initially include MRA/CTA Chest
 - If the origin of the coronaries arteries is below the sinus of Valsalva then a chest study is not needed on subsequent imaging.
 - If the origin of the coronary artery is not at the level of the sinus of Valsalva, a MRA/CTA Chest can be included when MR/CT imaging is required
 - Stress imaging- to assess the need for surgery

- Unrepaired
 - Routine surveillance every 2 years in an asymptomatic individual with anomalous right coronary artery from the left aortic sinus
 - TTE
 - Stress imaging
 - Although typically repaired, in the event that a repair is not completed, anomalous left coronary artery from the right coronary sinus can have imaging.
 - TTE annually
 - Stress imaging annually
 - Routine surveillance in an asymptomatic individual with small coronary fistula
 - TTE- every 2 years
 - Routine surveillance in an asymptomatic individual with moderate or large coronary fistula
 - TTE annually
- Post-procedural: surgical or catheter
 - TTE
 - Within 30 days of procedure
 - Monthly the first year following repair
 - Every 3 months after first year of surgery
 - Annually after the second year of surgery
 - Every 3 months if ventricular dysfunction
 - Stress testing
 - EKG stress testing without imaging may be medically necessary in the first post year and every 1-2 years depending on level of activity.
 - Stress testing with imaging
 - First postoperative year
 - If EKG stress test positive or equivocal
- Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
- Individuals with congenital heart disease such as TOF, Truncus Arteriosus, and TGA have increased incidence of coronary artery anomalies
- Individuals with Williams syndrome can have coronary artery stenosis
- Individuals with confirmed coronary artery anomalies may require repeat imaging based on the clinical scenario
- CCTA to rule out anomalous coronary artery should be limited to one of the following:
 - Individuals who need to have an anomalous coronary artery mapped prior to an invasive procedure
 - Individuals who have not had a previous imaging study that clearly demonstrates an anomalous coronary artery

- Individuals with a history that includes one or more of the indications in **Indications for CCTA (PEDCD-10.3)**

Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF) (PEDCD-2.4.13)

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Any surgical status

- TTE, CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Evaluation prior to planned pulmonary valve replacement, cardiac intervention, or surgery

Unrepaired

- Newborn-TTE no limits
- Infant
 - 1 per month

Post procedure palliation

- 1 per month following palliative procedure prior to complete repair, valvuloplasty, PDA and/or RVOT stenting, or shunt placement before complete repair

Post-operative TOF (initial repair)

- TTE
 - Within 30 days of repair
 - Pre-adolescent Child every 12 months
 - Adolescence every 24 months
 - Every 6 months in an individual with valvular dysfunction other than pulmonary valve, RVOT obstruction, branch pulmonary artery stenosis, arrhythmias, or presence of an RV-to-PA conduit
 - TTE every 3 months if CHF
- Cardiac MR/CT, MRA/CTA Chest every
 - Routine surveillance (36 months) in an individual with PR and preserved ventricular function
 - 12 months if moderate (≥ 150 mL/m²) or progressive (increase of >25 mL/m²) RV dilatation or dysfunction (RVEF $\leq 48\%$ or $\geq 6\%$ decrease in EF) or nearing imaging criteria for PVR.

Post-surgical or catheter based pulmonary valve replacement

- TTE

- Within 30 days follow-up
- 1 and 6 months after replacement
- One year post procedure
- Annually after replacement
- Every 6 months if RV-to-PA conduit dysfunction, valvular or ventricular dysfunction, branch pulmonary artery stenosis, or arrhythmias
- Every 3 months if CHF symptoms
- CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA every 2 years

Double Outlet Right Ventricle (DORV) (PEDCD-2.4.14)

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Any surgical status

- TTE, CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Evaluation prior to repair

Unrepaired

- TTE
 - Newborn no limit
 - Monthly infant with balanced systemic and pulmonary circulation
 - Every 3 months child with balanced circulation

Postoperative

- TTE
 - Within 30 days
 - First year post-op every 6 months
 - After one year, TTE every 1 year
 - TTE 3 months in an individual with valvular or ventricular dysfunction, right or left ventricular outflow tract obstruction, branch pulmonary artery stenosis, arrhythmias, or presence of an RV-to-PA conduit, heart failure
- Cardiac MR/CT, MRA/CTA Chest
 - 3 years for asymptomatic individual

D-Loop Transposition of the Great Arteries (D-Loop TGA) (PEDCD-2.4.15)

CDP.CHD.2415.A

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Any surgical status

- **TTE, CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA, stress imaging** are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Any time after procedure involving coronary arteries
- **CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA** every 5 years.

Unrepaired (TTE)

- No Limits

Post arterial switch

- TTE
 - Within 30 days of repair
 - Infant: every one month
 - Child: every 3 months
 - Child with $\geq$ moderate sequelae: TTE every three 3 months (moderate valvular or ventricular dysfunction, right or left ventricular outflow tract obstruction, branch pulmonary artery stenosis, or arrhythmias)
- Routine CMR/CT
 - Every 3 years
 - Every year if neo AI
- MRA/CTA Chest
 - Every 3 years
 - Every year if neo AI or aortic dilation
- Stress imaging
 - 1 routine test after arterial switch at any time

Post Rastelli

- TTE
 - Within 30 days
 - Every three months following procedure for one year

- Pre-adolescent Child Every 6 months following the first year after repair if no or mild sequelae
- Adolescent annually
- Every three months if moderate valvular dysfunction, LVOT obstruction, presence of an RV-to-PA conduit, branch, pulmonary artery stenosis, or arrhythmias, or heart failure
- CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA every 3 years

Post atrial switch

- TTE Every 1 year if mild to no symptoms
 - Every 3 months TTE, and CMR MRA CCT CTA if ≥moderate systemic AV, valve regurgitation, systemic RV dysfunction, LVOT obstruction, or arrhythmias, or CHF
 - Routine **CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA** every 3 years

Congenitally Corrected Transposition of the Great Arteries (ccTGA, LTGA) (PEDCD-2.4.16)

CDP.CHD.2416.A

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Any surgical status

- TTE, TEE, **CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA** are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Change clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Preoperative evaluation (typically within one month)
- CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA every 3 years

Unrepaired

- TTE
 - Newborn-Weekly
 - Infant
 - Every 3 months if no cardiac symptoms and only mild findings
 - Every 1 month if cardiac symptoms and moderate findings
 - Child
 - <2 years every 3 months
 - >2 years every 1 year
 - Every 6 months if ≥moderate AV regurgitation
 - Every 3 months if CHF symptoms
- CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA
 - Every 3 years

Postoperative: Anatomic Repair

- TTE
 - Post-operative evaluation (within 30 days)
 - Every 3 months within a year following repair in an asymptomatic individual with no or mild sequelae
 - Every 1 year after the first year following repair in an asymptomatic individual with no or mild sequelae
 - Every 6 months if valvular or ventricular dysfunction, right or left ventricular outflow tract obstruction, or presence of a RV-to-PA conduit

- Every 3 months if CHF symptoms
- CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA
 - Every 3 years

Postoperative: Physiological Repair with VSD Closure and/or LV-to-PA Conduit

- TTE
 - Postoperative evaluation (within 30 days)
 - Every 3 months within a year following repair in an asymptomatic individual with no or mild sequelae
 - Annually in an asymptomatic individual with no or mild sequelae
 - Every 3 months if in an individual with $\geq$ moderate systemic AV valve regurgitation, systemic RV dysfunction, and/or LV-to-PA conduit dysfunction, or with CHF symptoms
- CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA every 3 months in an individual with $\geq$ moderate systemic AV valve regurgitation, systemic RV dysfunction, and/or LV-to-PA conduit dysfunction, or with CHF symptoms

Truncus Arteriosus (PEDCD-2.4.17)

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Any surgical status

- TTE, CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Initial evaluation of change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Prior to planned intervention or surgery

Postoperative

- TTE
 - Within 30 days
 - Monthly in first year after surgery
 - After first year every 6 months
 - Every 3 months if
 - $\geq$ moderate truncal stenosis or regurgitation
 - Residual VSD or RV to PA conduit or Branch PA obstruction
 - Symptoms of CHF
- CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA
 - Annually if $\geq$ moderate Truncal stenosis or regurgitation

Single Ventricle (SV) (PEDCD-2.4.18)

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SV references individuals not amenable to biventricular repair, including but not limited to hypoplastic left heart syndrome, tricuspid atresia, Double inlet left ventricle, mitral atresia, unbalanced AVSD, and forms of PA/IVS.

Any surgical status

- Any/All: **TTE, TEE, CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA, and cardiac catheterization** (CPT® 93593, 93594, 93595, or 93597) are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Change clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Preoperative evaluation (typically within one month)

Unrepaired SV

- TTE allowed one study per week

Stage 1 palliation (TTE)

- Often called Norwood or Sano, or hybrid catheterization procedure
- Routine weekly TTE

Stage 2 palliation (TTE)

- Often referred to as Glenn procedure
- Within 30 days after surgical or catheterization intervention
- 1 per month in infant or child

Stage III, also called Fontan

- TTE within 30 days
- TTE every three months within first post-op year
- Every 6 months after first year
- Every 3 years allow **CMR/CCT-MRA/CTA**
- TTE every 3 months until the finding is stable or there is a need for intervention if there is valvular dysfunction, arrhythmias, heart failure

Surveillance

Cardiac catheterization is considered medically necessary for all Single Ventricles once every 10 years.

Eisenmenger and PHT (with CHD)- (PEDCD-2.4.19)

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PHT without CHD is covered in section **Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension General (PEDCD-7.1)**

These are in addition to studies supported by lesion.

Any surgical status

- TTE, CMR/CT-CMRA/CTA are considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Change clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
 - Preoperative evaluation (typically within one month)

Initial evaluation (TTE)

- Change in clinical status and/or new concerning signs or symptoms
- Before and after PHT therapy

Eisenmenger Syndrome (ES) individual

- TTE every 6 months

PHT associate with CHD

- Unrepaired individuals with evidence of elevated pulmonary vascular resistance can have echocardiograms based on the frequency requested by the provider.
- TTE and Cardiac CMR/CCT for changes in change in pulmonary arterial hypertension-targeted therapy in an individual with postoperative PH
- TTE every 3 months in postoperative stable child with PHT

References (PEDCD-2)

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Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

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Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) (PEDCD-12)

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MIS-C Indications for Cardiac Imaging (PEDCD-12.2)

MIS-C Initial Cardiac Imaging (PEDCD-12.2.1)

- When there is concern for MIS-C, as in atypical or incomplete Kawasaki (see **Kawasaki Disease - Acute Phase (PEDCD-6.2)**), echocardiogram (TTE) can be approved
- A cardiac MRI can be approved at the time of diagnosis when there are issues that can affect treatment management not answered by other testing.
- Cardiac CCTA can be done if there is incomplete visualization of the coronary arteries.
- Repeat echocardiograms may be required and approved if either:
 - Treatment decisions will be affected by results (e.g., treating with IVIg).
 - There are new signs or symptoms.

MIS-C Repeat Cardiac Imaging (PEDCD-12.2.2)

The following imaging guidelines reference outpatient management of individuals who have been discharged from the hospital after stability for MIS-C has been established.

- An echocardiogram (TTE) can be approved at the time of presentation and followed by serial echocardiograms (TTE) until stabilization has been achieved for any of the following:
 - New cardiac signs, symptoms, or findings
 - Evidence of recurrence of MIS-C
 - Changes in medication
- Serial echocardiograms can be approved based on the ordering cardiologist's discretion or the treating medical provider in consultation with a cardiologist when there is documented cardiac dysfunction.
- Individuals who are discharged from the hospital after MIS-C and have stable findings can have an echocardiogram (TTE):
 - Within 1 week of discharge
 - 4 weeks post-discharge
 - At 6 months post-discharge
 - One year post-discharge

- Cardiac CCTA can be done if there is incomplete visualization of the coronary arteries.
- A routine cardiac MRI can be done once after 3 months in an individual with evidence of cardiac involvement (e.g., symptoms, EKG, labs, or echocardiogram).
- Individuals with changes, or unanswered questions, on echocardiogram (TTE) may have a Cardiac MRI based on **Cardiac MRI and Cardiac Indications for MRA Chest (CD-5.2)** in the cardiac imaging guidelines.

Individuals with dilated coronary arteries can have imaging based on the AHA Kawasaki guidelines.

AHA risk level	Largest Aneurysm At Any Point	Largest Current Aneurysm	Routine Echocardiogram (TTE)	Routine Stress Imaging	Routine Coronary Imaging
All			All risk levels 4-6 weeks after acute illness		
1	Normal	Normal	One TTE 2-12 months after acute illness	none	none
2	Dilation	Dilation	6 months One year If dilation remains TTE every 2-5 years until resolves	None	None
		Normal	After acute illness: 2-12 months One echocardiogram at one year No echocardiogram after one year		
3.1	Small	Small	6 months 12 months Then yearly	2-3 years	3-5 years

AHA risk level	Largest Aneurysm At Any Point	Largest Current Aneurysm	Routine Echocardiogram (TTE)	Routine Stress Imaging	Routine Coronary Imaging
3.2	Small	Normal or dilated	6 months 12 months Then yearly	3-5 years	none
4.1	Medium	Medium	3 months 6 months 12 months Every 6-12 months after that	1-3 years	2-5 years
4.2	Medium	Small	6 months and 12 months, every 1 year	2-3 years	3-5 years
4.3	Medium	Normal Or Dilated	Every 1-2 years	2-4 years	none
5.1	Large	Large	1 month 3 months 6 months 9 months 12 months Then every 3-6 months	6-12 months	at 2-6 months, every 1-5 years
5.2	Large	Medium	Every 6-12 months	yearly	2-5 years
5.3	Large	Small	6-12 month	1-2 years	2-5 years

AHA risk level	Largest Aneurysm At Any Point	Largest Current Aneurysm	Routine Echocardiogram (TTE)	Routine Stress Imaging	Routine Coronary Imaging
5.4	Large	Normal Or Dilation	1-2 years	2-5 years	none

Symptomatic individuals

- Echocardiogram can be performed at any time with new or progressing cardiac symptoms.
- Stress imaging when there are new or progressing symptoms of ischemia or ventricular dysfunction
- Invasive or coronary imaging coronary angiography (CT, MRI, invasive) when the above studies are positive, inconclusive, or otherwise lead to a conclusion that intervention is needed

Evidence Discussion

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID 19) is usually mild in children. Some children develop a severe inflammatory disease that can present in a similar way to Kawasaki disease or toxic shock syndrome. This syndrome has been defined by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C).

These guidelines are intended for use in the outpatient management of cardiac findings of MIS-C. Additional information can be found in **COVID-19 and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) (PEDHD-12.7)** for the outpatient management of head imaging.

References (PEDCD-12)

CDP.CS.0012.A

v1.0.2026

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Heart Murmur

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Heart Murmur (PEDCD-3.1)

CDP.CS.003.1.A

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When evaluating an individual with a murmur for the first time, it will not be known whether the individual has congenital heart disease or not.

Initial pediatric TTE combinations

Cardiologist only submits charges for the procedure actually performed
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CPT® 93303, CPT® 93320, and CPT® 93325
CPT® 93303, CPT® 93306
CPT® 93306 (CPT® 93320 and CPT® 93325 are included with CPT® 93306 and should not be approved separately)

- Any one of the above echocardiography code combinations is considered medically necessary for evaluation of either:
 - Any pathologic murmur
 - Any innocent murmur with associated cardiac signs or symptoms
- Repeat echocardiography is not medically necessary if the initial echocardiogram was normal and the murmur has not changed in quality.

Evidence Discussion

- Heart murmurs are extremely common in pediatric individuals. The thinner chest wall in children allows clearer auscultation of blood flowing through the chambers of the heart, which may result in a murmur on physical exam.
- The majority of murmurs are innocent and do not require further evaluation. More than 30% of children may have an innocent murmur detected during physical examination. Innocent murmurs are typically systolic ejection murmurs with a vibratory or musical quality and generally change in quality when the individual changes position.
- Other types of murmurs can be pathologic and require additional evaluation, usually by a pediatric cardiologist. Echocardiography is considered medically necessary and is performed as part of the office visit.

References (PEDCD-3.1)

CDP.CS.003.1.A

v1.0.2026

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Chest Pain

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Chest Pain General (PEDCD-4.1)

CDP.CS.0004.1.A

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Initial pediatric TTE combinations

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CPT® 93303, CPT® 93306

CPT® 93306 (CPT® 93320 and CPT® 93325 are included with CPT® 93306 and should not be approved separately)

- Any one of the TTE combinations above is considered medically necessary for pediatric individuals with chest pain and one or more of the following:
 - Exertional chest pain
 - Non-exertional chest pain with abnormal EKG
 - Chest pain with signs or symptoms of pericarditis
 - First-degree relative with sudden unexplained death or cardiomyopathy
 - Recent onset of fever
 - Recent illicit drug use
 - Other signs or symptoms of cardiovascular disease
- Repeat echocardiography is not medically necessary if the initial echocardiogram is normal unless one of the following conditions is present:
 - Increased severity or change in quality of the chest pain
 - New signs or symptoms of cardiovascular disease other than pain
 - New abnormality on EKG
- Cardiac MR or cardiac CT is considered medically necessary for chest pain if prior evaluation suggests:
 - Any coronary artery abnormalities
 - Cardiomyopathy
 - Myocarditis
- Chest MRA or CTA if pulmonary embolism or aortic dissection is suspected
- Stress imaging is considered medically necessary if other imaging suggests coronary artery abnormality, or ETT suggests ischemia. EKG is uninterpretable. Any indication in section **Stress Testing with Imaging (CD-1.4)** in the Cardiac Imaging Guidelines. This can include Stress SPECT, echo or MR.

Evidence Discussion

Chest pain in pediatric individuals is caused by a cardiac etiology in <5% of cases, yet causes great anxiety for parents resulting in requests for testing.

Individuals with CP may undergo an exercise stress test without imaging.

Echocardiography is performed as part of the office visit. When evaluating an individual for the first time, it will not be known whether the individual has congenital heart disease or not. The cardiologist only submits charges for the procedure actually performed.

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CDP.CS.0004.1.A

v1.0.2026

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Syncope

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Syncope (PEDCD-5.1)

CDP.CS.0005.1.A

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Initial pediatric TTE combinations

Cardiologist only submits charges for the procedure actually performed

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CPT® 93303, CPT® 93306

CPT® 93306 (CPT® 93320 and CPT® 93325 are included with CPT® 93306 and should not be approved separately)

- Echocardiography is not medically necessary for most individuals with isolated syncope.
- Echocardiography is considered medically necessary for pediatric individuals with syncope and one or more of the following:
 - Exertional syncope
 - Unexplained post-exertional syncope
 - Abnormal EKG
 - Absence of prodromal symptoms
 - Presence of preceding palpitations within seconds of loss of consciousness
 - Lack of a prolonged upright posture
 - Syncope in response to auditory or emotional
 - First-degree relative with any of the following before age 50:
 - Sudden cardiac arrest or death
 - Pacemaker or implantable defibrillator placement
 - First-degree relative with cardiomyopathy
 - Known congenital heart disease
 - History of Kawasaki disease, or other coronary pathology
 - Pathologic murmur, irregular rhythm, gallop, or click on physical examination
- Repeat echocardiography is not medically necessary if the initial echocardiogram is normal unless one of the following conditions is present:
 - Increased severity or change in quality of the syncope
 - New signs or symptoms of cardiovascular disease other than syncope
 - Family of history of sudden death, cardiomyopathy
 - New abnormality on EKG

- Cardiac MR or Cardiac CT is considered medically necessary for chest pain if prior evaluation suggests any coronary artery abnormalities, cardiomyopathy, myocarditis.
- MRA or CTA Chest if pulmonary embolism or aortic dissection is suspected
- Stress imaging (SPECT, echo or MR) is considered medically necessary (any):
 - If other imaging suggests coronary artery abnormality
 - ETT suggests ischemia
 - EKG is uninterpretable
 - Any indication in section **Stress Testing with Imaging (CD-1.4)** in the Cardiac Imaging Guidelines

Evidence Discussion

Syncope in pediatric individuals is common, with up to 15% of individuals experiencing at least one episode by age 21. Syncope is caused by neurocardiogenic syndrome (vasovagal syncope) in 75% to 80% of cases, which is a benign and self-limiting condition. Despite this, syncope causes great anxiety for parents resulting in requests for testing.

Individuals with CP may undergo an exercise stress test without imaging.

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CDP.CS.0005.1.A

v1.0.2026

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Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension General

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Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension

General (PEDCD-7.1)

CDP.CS.0007.1.A

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- Pulmonary hypertension in children can be caused by cardiac, pulmonary, or systemic diseases, and idiopathic disease occurs as well.
- Chest x-ray, EKG, and echocardiography (CPT® 93306, or CPT® 93303, with CPT® 93320, and CPT® 93325, see **Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) Coding (PEDCD-8.1)** for echocardiography coding considerations) for initial evaluation if pulmonary hypertension is suspected.
- Repeat echocardiography intervals are variable depending on age of individual, etiology, and severity.
 - After a comprehensive initial evaluation, echocardiograms using PH-specific protocols may be performed every 4 to 6 months.
 - Echocardiography is considered medically necessary at any time for new or worsening symptoms or to evaluate a recent change in therapy.
 - Right heart and/or left heart catheterization may be utilized for PAH individuals, including before and after initiation of PH-targeted therapy, and for individuals with concomitant congenital heart disease.
- CT Chest (CPT® 71250) may be medically necessary in addition to CTA Chest (CPT® 71275) or MRA Chest (CPT® 71555) for initial evaluation of all pediatric individuals with pulmonary hypertension to evaluate for pulmonary vascular or interstitial disease, or other intrathoracic causes.
- Cardiac MRI without and with contrast (CPT® 75561) is considered medically necessary for evaluation of inconclusive echocardiogram findings or for monitoring right ventricular function during follow-up.
- Stress echocardiograms may be medically necessary (as in the general cardiac imaging guidelines) see **Stress echo – coding** in the Cardiac Imaging Guidelines.

References (PEDCD-7.1)

CDP.CS.0007.1.A

v1.0.2026

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Pericardial Effusion or Pericardial Tamponade

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Evaluation of Pericardial Effusion or Diagnosis of Pericardial Tamponade (PEDCD-9.5)

CDP.CS.0009.5.A

v1.0.2026

- Echocardiogram is the initial imaging study of choice to evaluate pericardial effusions or diagnose pericardial tamponade.
 - If a specific clinical question is left unanswered by another recent imaging study, **and** the answer to the clinical question will affect the management of the individual's clinical condition, contrast-enhanced cardiac MRI is useful for evaluating:
 - Pericarditis
 - Neoplastic effusion
 - Tamponade
 - Myocardial infiltration
 - Cancers that can metastasize to the pericardium or myocardium and can cause a malignant effusion include lung, breast, renal cell, lymphoma and melanoma.
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Kawasaki Disease

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Kawasaki Disease (PEDCD-6)

CDP.CS.0006.A

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Kawasaki Disease Initial Imaging (PEDCD-6.1)

- Echocardiography (CPT® 93306) is considered medically necessary for initial assessment for suspected or known Kawasaki disease.
 - Coronary CTA (CPT® 75574), Cardiac MRI without contrast (CPT® 75557), Cardiac MRI without and with contrast (CPT® 75561), or MRA Chest (CPT® 71555) are considered medically necessary for evaluation of inconclusive echocardiogram findings or significant coronary artery abnormalities.
 - Screening of other body areas for aneurysms is not routinely medically necessary in Kawasaki disease, but MRA or CTA (contrast as requested) of the affected body area can be approved for evaluation of signs or symptoms suggesting aneurysm development.
 - See acute and chronic phase for imaging

Background and Supporting Information

- Kawasaki disease (KD) is the leading cause of acquired pediatric cardiac disease in the developed world. It is an acute febrile illness characterized by a medium vessel vasculitis, which predominantly affects the coronary arteries.
 - Individuals who do not fulfill the diagnostic criteria for classic KD may be considered to have incomplete (atypical) KD.
 - If Kawasaki disease is strongly suspected, treatment will often begin even before cardiac evaluation, since early treatment is associated with a lower risk for coronary aneurysm development.

Kawasaki Disease - Acute Phase (PEDCD-6.2)

- Echocardiography is medically necessary when the diagnosis of KD is suspected
 - In uncomplicated presentations, repeat echocardiography is medically necessary at the following intervals after treatment:
 - Within 1 to 2 weeks
 - Within 4 to 6 weeks
 - In presentations with important and evolving coronary artery abnormalities (z-score >2.5) detected during the acute illness, repeat echocardiography (at least twice per

- week) to monitor for thrombosis is medically necessary until luminal dimensions have stopped progressing.
- In presentations with expanding large or giant aneurysms, TTE is medically necessary at the following intervals:
 - Twice per week while dimensions are expanding rapidly
 - Once weekly after dimension is stabilized for the first 45 days of illness
 - Then, monthly until the third month after illness onset
 - CCTA, or Cardiac MRI, or coronary angiography are considered medically necessary in the acute phase in severe cases to evaluate proximal coronary artery abnormalities when results will impact management decisions.
 - Transesophageal echocardiography, Cardiac MRI, and CCTA are not routinely used in the acute phase of illness but are considered medically necessary when **both**:
 - Visualization of the coronary arteries with Transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) is inadequate **and**
 - Results will impact immediate management decisions
 - Evaluation of potential aneurysmal involvement in other arterial beds can be assessed with CMRI, CTA, and, rarely, invasive angiography after recovery from the acute illness for individuals with severe coronary artery involvement or symptoms or signs, such as the presence of a pulsatile axillary mass.
 - Atypical or incomplete Kawasaki. Echo is considered medically necessary when atypical KD is being considered, may require repeat echocardiograms if treatment decisions will be affected by results (e.g., treating with IVIg), if new signs or symptoms (such as typical peeling) develop.

Evidence Discussion

- The acute phase of Kawasaki disease (KD) can last up to 4-6 weeks from the onset of fever until acute systemic inflammation has resolved and coronary artery dimensions are no longer expanding.
- Based on AHA recommendations, the following classifications are used in risk stratification of coronary artery abnormalities¹:
 - Z-score classification accounts for the effects of body size and age through use of baseline coronary dimensions adjusted for body surface area. The z-score value represents the number of standard deviation above the mean. (e.g., z=0 pt. has coronary artery dimension value equal to mean, z=2 person has value 2 standard deviation above the mean, based on age, gender, BSA).
 - Coronary Artery Abnormalities Risk Classification based on z-score:
 - 1 - No involvement at any time point (z-score always <2)
 - 2 - Dilation only (z-score 2 to <2.5)

¹ Mccrindle BW, Rowley AH, Newburger JW, et al. Diagnosis, Treatment, and Long-Term Management of Kawasaki Disease: A Scientific Statement for Health Professionals from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2017;135(17). doi:10.1161/cir.0000000000000484.

- 3 - Small aneurysm (z-score ≥ 2.5 to < 5)
 - 3.1 - Current or persistent
 - 3.2 - Decreased to dilation only or normal luminal dimension
- 4 - Medium aneurysm (z-score ≥ 5 to < 10 , and absolute dimension < 8 mm)
 - 4.1 - Current or persistent
 - 4.2 - Decreased to small aneurysm
 - 4.3 - Decreased to dilation only or normal luminal dimension
- 5 - Large and giant aneurysm (z-score ≥ 10 , or absolute dimension ≥ 8 mm)
 - 5.1 - Current or persistent
 - 5.2 - Decreased to medium aneurysm
 - 5.3 - Decreased to small aneurysm
 - 5.4 - Decreased to dilation only or normal luminal dimension
- Additional clinical features that may increase the long-term risk of myocardial ischemia:
 - Greater length and distal location of aneurysms that increase the risk of flow stasis
 - Greater total number of aneurysms
 - Greater number of branches affected
 - Presence of luminal irregularities
 - Abnormal characterization of the vessel walls (calcification, luminal myofibroblastic proliferation)
 - Presence of functional abnormalities (impaired vasodilation, impaired flow reserve)
 - Absence or poor quality of collateral vessels
 - Previous revascularization performed
 - Previous coronary artery thrombosis
 - Previous myocardial infarction
 - Presence of ventricular dysfunction

Kawasaki Disease - Chronic Phase (PEDCD-6.3)

- Long-term management begins at the end of the acute illness, usually at 4 to 6 weeks after fever onset. Management is based on two pieces of data:
 - The dimensions of the largest aneurysm at any point during the disease
 - The dimensions of the largest current aneurysm
- Additional risk factors that may be considered for imaging:
 - Greater length and distal location of aneurysms that increase the risk of flow stasis
 - Greater total number of aneurysms
 - Greater number of branches affected

- Presence of luminal irregularities
- Abnormal characterization of the vessel wall (calcification, luminal myofibroblastic proliferation)
- Presence of functional abnormalities (impaired vasodilation, impaired flow reserve)
- Absence or poor quality of collateral vessels
- Previous revascularization performed
- Previous coronary artery thrombosis
- Previous myocardial infarction
- Presence of ventricular dysfunction
- Long term routine surveillance in asymptomatic imaging for Kawasaki disease-see chart

Long term routine surveillance in asymptomatic imaging for Kawasaki disease

AHA risk level	Largest Aneurysm At Any Point	Largest Current Aneurysm	Routine Echo	Routine Stress Imaging	Routine Coronary Imaging
All			All risk levels 4-6 weeks after acute illness		
1	Normal	Normal	One echo 2-12 months after acute illness	none	none
2	Dilation	Dilation	6 months One year If dilation remains echo every 2-5 years until resolves	None	None
		Normal	After acute illness: 2-12 months One echocardiogram at one year No echocardiogram after one year		

AHA risk level	Largest Aneurysm At Any Point	Largest Current Aneurysm	Routine Echo	Routine Stress Imaging	Routine Coronary Imaging
3.1	Small	Small	6 months 12 months then yearly	2-3 years	3-5 years
3.2	Small	Normal or dilated	6 months 12 months Then yearly	3-5 years	none
4.1	Medium	Medium	3 months 6 months 12 months Every 6-12 months after that	1-3 years	2-5 years
4.2	Medium	Small	6 months and 12 months, every 1 year	2-3 years	3-5 years
4.3	Medium	Normal Or Dilated	Every 1-2 years	2-4 years	none
5.1	Large	Large	1 month 3 months 6 months 9 months 12 months Then every 3-6 months	6-12 months	at 2-6 months, every 1-5 years
5.2	Large	Medium	Every 6-12 months	yearly	2-5 years
5.3	Large	Small	6-12 month	1-2 years	2-5 years

AHA risk level	Largest Aneurysm At Any Point	Largest Current Aneurysm	Routine Echo	Routine Stress Imaging	Routine Coronary Imaging
5.4	Large	Normal Or Dilation	1-2 years	2-5 years	none

Symptomatic individuals

- Echocardiogram can be performed at any time with new or progressing cardiac symptoms.
- Stress imaging when there are new or progressing symptoms of ischemia or ventricular dysfunction
- Invasive or coronary imaging Coronary angiography (CT, MRI, invasive) when the above studies are positive, inconclusive, or otherwise lead to a conclusion that intervention is needed.

**Adapted from: Mccrindle BW, Rowley AH, Newburger JW, et al. Diagnosis, Treatment, and Long-Term Management of Kawasaki Disease: A Scientific Statement for Health Professionals from the American Heart Association. Circulation. 2017;135(17). doi:10.1161/cir.0000000000000484.

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Echocardiography

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Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) Coding (PEDCD-8.1)

CDP.000.8.1.A

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- CPT® codes for echocardiography are listed in **General Guidelines (PEDCD-1.0)**

Echocardiogram coding notes	CPT®
- The most commonly performed study is a complete transthoracic echocardiogram with spectral and color flow Doppler (CPT® 93306). - CPT® 93306 includes CPT® 93320 and CPT® 93325, so those codes should not be approved along with CPT® 93306.	93306
Doppler codes (CPT® 93320, CPT® 93321, and CPT® 93325) are add-on codes and are assigned in addition to code for the primary procedure, and should not be approved alone.	+93320 +93321 +93325
For a 2D transthoracic echocardiogram without Doppler, report CPT® 93307.	93307
- A limited transthoracic echocardiogram is reported with CPT® 93308. - Limited transthoracic echocardiogram should be billed if the report does not “evaluate or document the attempt to evaluate” all of the required structures. - Unlike CPT® 93306, the Doppler CPT® 93321 and CPT® 93325 are not included with CPT® 93308. - CPT® 93321 (not CPT® 93320) should be reported with CPT® 93308 if Doppler is included in the study. - CPT® 93325 should also be reported with CPT® 93308 if color flow Doppler is included in the study.	93308
For individuals with known congenital heart disease, a limited transthoracic echocardiogram is reported with CPT® 93304, +/- CPT® 93321 and CPT® 93325.	93304

- Providers performing an **initial** echocardiogram on a pediatric individual will not know what procedure codes they will be reporting until the initial study is completed.

- If congenital heart disease is found on the initial echo, a complete echocardiogram is reported with codes CPT® 93303, CPT® 93320, and CPT® 93325 because CPT® 93303 does NOT include Doppler and color flow mapping.
- If no congenital issue is discovered, then CPT® 93306 is reported alone and includes 2-D, Doppler and color flow mapping.
- Since providers may not know the appropriate code(s) that will be reported at the time of the pre-authorization request, they may request multiple codes.
 - The following echocardiography code combinations for any **initial** echocardiogram:
 - CPT® 93303, CPT® 93306, CPT® 93320, and CPT® 93325
 - CPT® 93303, CPT® 93306
 - CPT® 93306
 - CPT® 93320 and CPT® 93325 are included with CPT® 93306 and should not be approved separately.
 - Post-service audits may be completed to ensure proper claims submission.
- Correct coding for subsequent echocardiograms
 - If an individual is being followed for known congenital heart disease, and an echocardiogram is considered medically necessary, the appropriate codes are (CPT® 93303 or 93304) in addition to appropriate doppler codes (CPT® 93320 or 93321) and CPT® 93325.
 - If an individual has documented normal anatomy or acquired heart disease, and an echocardiogram is considered medically necessary, non-congenital codes are appropriate CPT® 93306 (includes all Doppler codes) or CPT® 93308 with CPT® 93321 and CPT® 93325.
 - For individuals with newborn physiology (e.g., ASD versus PFO, or PDA), the final echocardiogram that documents normal anatomy can be coded as congenital. However, any subsequent echocardiograms after that, which would be completed for a new indication, (e.g., shortness of breath) would be coded as non-congenital.

Initial Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) Indications (PEDCD-8.2)

CDP.000.8.1.A

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- In addition to indications listed in previous guideline sections, initial TTE evaluation is considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - Any signs/symptoms that are possibly cardiac in nature, including (but not limited to) central cyanosis, dyspnea, edema, poor peripheral pulses, feeding difficulty, decreased urine output, hepatomegaly, or desaturation on pulse oximetry.
 - Abnormal EKG or cardiac biomarkers
 - Abnormal chest x-ray suggesting cardiovascular disease
 - First-degree relative with any of the following before age 50:
 - Sudden cardiac arrest or death
 - Pacemaker or implantable defibrillator placement
 - First-degree relative with cardiomyopathy
 - Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT), Ventricular Tachycardia, or Premature Ventricular Contractions (PVCs)
 - Known or suspected valvular dysfunction
 - Persistent systemic hypertension
 - Individuals with new onset hypertension
 - TTE indicated to assess for cardiac target organ damage (LV mass, geometry, and function) at the time of consideration of pharmacologic treatment of systemic hypertension
 - Obesity (BMI >30) with additional cardiovascular risk factors
 - Stroke
 - Renal failure
 - Preoperative evaluation of individuals with chest wall deformities or scoliosis
 - Known or suspected vascular ring
 - Planned administration of cardiotoxic chemotherapy
 - Generally anthracyclines (doxorubicin, daunorubicin, mitoxantrone, idarubicin, epirubicin)
 - Planned radiation therapy involving heart muscle or hematopoietic stem cell transplant
 - Sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathy causing chronic anemia
 - Known or suspected vasculitis, acute rheumatic fever, or other systemic autoimmune disease
 - Aortopathy (such as Marfan, Ehlers-Danlos, Loeys-Dietz)

- Positive personal diagnosis
- First degree relative
- Positive gene
- Finding suggestive of aortopathy such as x-ray showing aortic dilation
- Muscular dystrophy
 - Positive personal diagnosis
 - First degree relative
 - Positive gene
 - Any findings suggestive of MD, such as neurological exam
- Cardiomyopathy
 - Diagnosed by other modality (such as cardiac MR)
 - First degree relative
 - Positive genetic testing
 - Findings suggestive of, such as cardiomegaly on x-ray
- Metabolic, mitochondrial, and storage disorders
 - Positive personal diagnosis
 - First degree relative
 - Positive genetic testing
 - Findings suggestive of on exam or lab findings
- Abnormalities of cardiac or other viscera situs
- Signs, symptoms, or blood culture suggestive of endocarditis
- Known or suspected mass lesion involving the heart or great vessels
- Known or suspected clot in atrium or ventricle
- Known or suspected pulmonary hypertension
- Known or suspected pericardial effusion
- Complications during prenatal development:
 - Known or suspected cardiovascular abnormality on fetal echocardiogram
 - Maternal phenylketonuria (PKU)
 - Maternal diabetes with no fetal echo
 - Maternal teratogen exposure
 - Maternal infection during pregnancy with potential cardiac sequelae
- Genetic abnormality known to be associated with cardiovascular disease such as:
 - Down syndrome
 - Turner syndrome
 - 22q11 deletion syndrome
 - Williams syndrome
 - Noonan syndrome
- First-degree relative family history of:

- Unexplained sudden death before age 50
- Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- Non-ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy
- Genetic abnormality known to be associated with cardiovascular disease
- Congenital left-sided heart lesion
- Heritable pulmonary arterial hypertension

Repeat Transthoracic Echocardiography Indications (PEDCD-8.3)

CDP.EC.0008.3.A

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- Repeat echocardiograms may be required for individuals with no new symptoms.
- In addition to indications listed in previous guideline sections, repeat TTE evaluation is considered medically necessary for any of the following:
 - In an individual with known cardiac disease and a previously normal echocardiogram when there is documentation of any of the following:
 - New or worsening cardiac symptoms
 - New EKG abnormality
 - Newly recognized family history suggestive of heritable heart disease
 - In an individual with prior normal evaluation
 - New or worsening symptoms
 - New EKG finding
 - New murmur
 - New finding of inheritable disease in first-degree relative
 - Individuals with first-degree family history of cardiomyopathy (such as, hypertrophic, dilated, arrhythmogenic) or aortopathy
 - Repeat echocardiogram every 12 months
 - Repeat echocardiogram can be done at the additional intervals when the family history or gene mutation is associated with neonatal or fetal disease:
 - At birth
 - Within the first 6 weeks
 - At 3 months
 - At 6 months
 - At one year
 - Then yearly
 - Repeat imaging is **not** medically necessary in individuals with first degree relative with known mutation when **both** of the following apply:
 - Individual has been tested and does not have that mutation
 - Individual has a normal echocardiogram
 - If there are abnormal findings on screening/surveillance imaging, a repeat echocardiogram is allowed to assess stability of findings.
 - Individual with a phenotype positive cardiomyopathy (with or without a positive gene) can be imaged as follows:

- Infants (under one year)
 - TTE is considered medically necessary at frequency requested by pediatric cardiology or provider in consultation with pediatric cardiology.
- Children (over one year) yearly testing is considered medically necessary as follows:
 - Repeat TTE every 12 months
 - Repeat TTE to assess stability at discretion of pediatric cardiology, or provider in consultation with pediatric cardiology, after any new or changed clinical finding.
 - TTE at any time with documented new or changing symptoms.
- Individual with a known mutation associated with cardiomyopathy or aortopathy and no previous abnormal imaging
 - Repeat echocardiogram every 12 months
 - Individuals whose gene mutation is associated with neonatal or fetal disease or there is a family history of neonatal or fetal disease can have repeat echocardiogram at the following intervals:
 - At birth
 - Within the first 6 weeks
 - Then at 3 months
 - At 6 months
 - At one year
 - Then yearly
 - If there are abnormal findings on screening/surveillance imaging, a repeat echocardiogram is allowed to assess stability of findings.
- Individuals who are status post heart transplant can have echocardiograms repeated as often as requested by heart transplant team.
- Every 12 months for individuals receiving active therapy for ventricular hypertrophy, valvular dysfunction, cardiomyopathy
 - One time repeat TTE can be approved at 6 months to assess response to a change in therapy
- Every 12 months for individuals with chronic pericardial effusions
- Every 12 months routine surveillance in asymptomatic individuals with muscular dystrophy (may be replaced by cardiac MRI CPT® 75557 or 75561 at 6 years of life)
- Every 12 months for sickle cell disease or other hemoglobinopathy causing chronic anemia and one of the following:
 - High-risk genotype (Hgb SS or Sβ⁰, severe thalassemia, etc.)
 - History of acute chest syndrome or intrinsic lung disease
 - History of stroke

- Receiving chronic transfusion therapy
- As needed for monitoring cardiotoxicity during chemotherapy administration
- After completion of chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy. See **Cardiotoxicity and Echocardiography (PEDONC-19.2)** for imaging guidelines.
- Aortopathies- see **Thoracic Aortic Disease (PEDPVD-4.1)** in the Pediatric Peripheral Vascular Disease Imaging Guidelines
- TTE follow-up for systemic hypertension
 - Individuals with evidence of end organ damage (Includes LVH, or decreased EF) can have echocardiogram every 6 months until echocardiogram normalizes.
 - Individuals without LV target organ injury (no LVH, normal EF) at initial echocardiographic assessment, repeat echocardiography at yearly intervals may be considered in those with persistent hypertension. (stage 2 HTN, or chronic stage 1 HTN incompletely treated (noncompliance or drug resistance))

Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE) (PEDCD-8.4)

CDP.EC.0008.4.A

v1.0.2026

- Transesophageal echocardiography imaging indications in pediatric individuals are identical to those for adult individuals. See **Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE)(CD-2.5)** in the Cardiac Imaging Guidelines.

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Computed Tomography

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CT Heart and Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)

General Considerations (PEDCD-10.1)

CDP.CT.0010.1.A

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- Metal artifact reduces the accuracy of CCTA. Devices that can cause this issue include but are not limited to:
 - Surgical clips
 - Pacemaker devices
 - Defibrillator devices
 - Tissue expanders
- Cardiac testing that does not involve exposure to ionizing radiation should be strongly considered.

Radiation Dose (PEDCD-10.2)

- ACR–NASCI–SPR Practice Parameter for the Performance and Interpretation of Cardiac Computed Tomography (CT) stated, “Cardiac CT should be performed only for a valid medical indication and with the minimum radiation exposure that provides diagnostic image quality.”
- ACR–NASCI–SPR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Quantification of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (Ct) And Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) stated, “In younger patients, MRI may be the preferred modality, particularly when functional assessment with CT would require retrospective ECG gating and relatively high radiation doses. Further, the use of time-resolved MRA and phase contrast MRI methods offer significant advantages whose relative importance will depend on the specific application.”
 - See table: Practice Estimate of Effective Radiation Dose chart for Selected Imaging Studies in **General Guidelines (PEDCD-1.0)** in the general Cardiac Imaging Guidelines

Indications for CCTA (PEDCD-10.3)

CDP.CT.0010.3.A

v1.0.2026

- In addition to indications listed in previous guideline sections, CCTA is considered medically necessary for any of the following, when a recent TTE and/or MRI is inconclusive:
 - Persistent exertional chest pain and normal stress test
 - Full sibling(s) with history of sudden death syndrome before age 30 or with documented anomalous coronary artery
 - Resuscitated sudden death and contraindication to conventional coronary angiography
 - Unexplained new onset of heart failure if CCTA will replace conventional invasive coronary angiography
 - Documented ventricular tachycardia (6 beat runs or greater) if CCTA will replace conventional invasive coronary angiography
 - Equivocal coronary artery anatomy on conventional cardiac catheterization
 - In infants: otherwise unexplained dyspnea, tachypnea, wheezing, episodic pallor, irritability, sweating, poor feeding, and/or failure to thrive
 - The presence of other congenital heart disease is not a separate indication for CCTA to rule out anomalous coronary artery (except when coronary artery surgery is pending, i.e., Transposition of the great arteries, Tetralogy of Fallot, Truncus arteriosus, aortic root surgery)
 - Evaluation of the arterial supply and venous drainage in children with bronchopulmonary sequestration
- See **Coronary Anomalies (PEDCD-2.4.12)**

Indications for Cardiac CT (CPT® 75572) (PEDCD-10.4)

CDP.CT.0010.4.A

v1.0.2026

- In addition to indications listed in previous guideline sections, CCT is considered medically necessary for any of the following, when a recent TTE and/or MRI is inconclusive:
 - Cardiac or pericardial mass
 - Pericarditis
 - Complications of cardiac surgery or evaluation of post-operative anatomy
 - Cardiac thrombus in individuals with technically limited TTE, TEE, or MRI
 - Clinical suspicion of arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia (ARVD) or arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy (ARVC)
 - Native aortic abnormalities if echocardiogram is indeterminate
 - Intracardiac anatomy unclear after TTE or CMRI
 - A CTA Chest is medically necessary during a Cardiac CT if there are issues regarding the chest vessels that are inconclusive after echocardiogram or Cardiac MRI

Indications for Chest CTA with Cardiac CT or CTA (PEDCD-10.5)

CDP.CT.0010.5.A

v1.0.2026

- A Chest CTA may be medically necessary in individuals who require Cardiac CT or Cardiac CTA when:
 - A TTE or MRI is inconclusive for issues regarding chest vasculature
 - Routine imaging is considered medically necessary based on **Imaging and Surveillance per Congenital lesion (PEDCD-2.4)**

References (PEDCD-10)

v1.0.2026

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Magnetic Resonance Imaging

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Cardiac MRI Coding (PEDCD-9.2)

CDP.MR.0009.2.A
v1.0.2026

Cardiac Imaging Procedure Codes

Cardiac MRI	CPT®
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast.	75557
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without and with contrast and further sequences.	75561
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast; with stress imaging (rarely used in pediatrics).	75559
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without and with contrast and further sequences; with stress imaging (rarely used in pediatrics).	75563
Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for velocity flow mapping (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure).	+75565

- Only one procedure code from the set: CPT® 75557, CPT® 75559, CPT® 75561, and CPT® 75563 should be reported per session.
- Only one flow velocity measurement (CPT® +75565) should be reported per session.

Indications for Cardiac MRI (PEDCD-9.3)

CDP.MR.0009.3.A

v1.0.2026

- In addition to indications listed in previous guideline sections, Cardiac MRI (CPT® 75557 or 75561) evaluation is considered medically necessary for any of the following, when a recent TTE is inconclusive:
 - Assessment of global ventricular function and mass if a specific clinical question is left unanswered by recent TTE and the MRI results will affect management of the individual's condition
 - Individuals with complex congenital heart disease (e.g., Tetralogy of Fallot [TOF], single ventricle, truncus arteriosus, Transposition of the Great Arteries [TGA]) may require a baseline MRI, or routine Cardiac MRI, especially as they approach their teenage years, due to poor imaging windows on echocardiogram, and the need for specific clinical information not seen on prior echocardiograms due to these known limitations. Once these individuals reach age 18, they can be imaged by adult congenital heart disease guideline.
 - Clinical suspicion of arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia (ARVD) or arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy (ARVC).
 - For pericardial disease (including constrictive pericarditis, restrictive pericarditis, and perimyocarditis), MRI should not be utilized to diagnose pericarditis but only to answer the question regarding possible constriction or restriction suggested clinically or by other techniques (TTE, etc.).
 - MRI without and with contrast (CPT® 75561) is considered the optimal test for this disorder.
 - Evaluate cardiac tumor or mass
 - MRI without and with contrast (CPT® 75561) is considered the optimal test for this disorder.
 - Evaluate anomalous coronary artery
 - MRI without and with contrast (CPT® 75561) or CCTA (CPT® 75574) after echocardiogram is considered the optimal test for this disorder.
 - For Fabry disease, late enhancement MRI may predict the effect of enzyme replacement therapy on myocardial changes that occur with this disease.
 - MRI without and with contrast (CPT® 75561) is considered the preferred test for this disorder.
 - Cardiac MRI (CPT® 75557 or 75561) can be performed to evaluate individuals with congenital cardiomyopathy (muscular dystrophy, glycogen storage disease, fatty acid oxidation disorders, mitochondrial disorders, etc.) or unexplained cases of cardiomyopathy in order to characterize the myocardium.

- Cardiac stress perfusion study (CPT® 75559 or CPT® 75563) can be considered on a case by case basis for individuals with any of the following:
 - Anomalous coronary artery
 - Kawasaki disease
 - TGA
 - Ross operation
 - Other disorder with the potential for coronary ischemia
 - Individuals in whom an exercise stress test (EST) without imaging is considered medically necessary but the individual is not able to perform an EST
 - Individuals in whom an exercise stress test (EST) is equivocal, positive, or concern for a false negative
- Assessment of cardiac iron overload such as in hemochromatosis, thalassemia, sickle cell (either CPT® 75557 or CPT® 71550, T2* MRI, contrast not necessary)
 - Screening imaging may be approved every 12 months
 - Imaging may be approved every 3 months for treatment response in individuals receiving active treatment (chelation +/- phlebotomy)
 - Frequently performed along with MRI Abdomen (CPT® 74181) to assess liver iron deposition See **Transfusion-associated (Secondary) Hemochromatosis (PEDAB-18.2)** in the Pediatric Abdomen Imaging Guidelines.
- Asymptomatic individuals with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)
 - MRI Cardiac for DMD **either** CPT® 75557 or CPT® 75561 is considered medically necessary for surveillance if done in place of TTE every year starting at 6 years of age.
 - Female carriers would not typically be imaged until ≥18 years of age and should be imaged according to general Cardiac Imaging Guidelines.
 - CPT® 75565 or CPT® 71555 would not be medically necessary unless there was an independent indication for either of those codes.

Indications for Chest MRA for Congenital Heart Disease (PEDCD-9.4)

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- For Familial Aortopathies, see **Thoracic Aortic Disease (PEDPVD-4.1)** in the Pediatric Peripheral Vascular Disease Imaging Guidelines
- For individuals with known CHD for routine imaging **Imaging and Surveillance per Congenital lesion (PEDCD-2.4)**
- For individuals who have both cardiac and ascending aorta abnormalities (e.g., truncus arteriosus), the following studies may be medically necessary following an inconclusive TTE:
 - Cardiac MRI (CPT® 75557 or CPT® 75561)
 - And MRI Chest (CPT® 71552) or MRA Chest (CPT® 71555) if aorta is involved
- For individuals with aortic abnormalities without cardiac abnormalities (i.e. normal intracardiac anatomy, but coarctation or peripheral pulmonary artery stenosis), the following studies may be medically necessary following an inconclusive TTE:
 - MRI Chest (CPT® 71552)
 - MRA Chest (CPT® 71555)
- MRA Chest (CPT® 71555) is considered medically necessary for individuals with cardiomyopathy or isolated abnormal intracardiac anatomy, when there are inconclusive images on echocardiogram related to chest vessels (e.g. aortic arch, pulmonary arteries, pulmonary veins, systemic veins).

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Diagnostic Heart Catheterization

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Cardiac Catheterization General Information (PEDCD-11.1)

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Cardiac Catheterization Procedure Codes

Cardiac Catheterization Procedures	CPT®
Congenital Heart Disease Code “Set”	93593-93597
Right heart catheterization for congenital heart defect(s) including imaging guidance by the proceduralist to advance the catheter to the target zone; normal native connections	93593
Right heart catheterization for congenital heart defect(s) including imaging guidance by the proceduralist to advance the catheter to the target zone; abnormal native connections	93594
Left heart catheterization for congenital heart defect(s) including imaging guidance by the proceduralist to advance the catheter to the target zone, normal or abnormal native connections	93595
Right and left heart catheterization for congenital heart defect(s) including imaging guidance by the proceduralist to advance the catheter to the target zone(s); normal native connections	93596
Right and left heart catheterization for congenital heart defect(s) including imaging guidance by the proceduralist to advance the catheter to the target zone(s); abnormal native connections	93597
Anomalous coronary arteries, patent foramen ovale, mitral valve prolapse, and bicuspid aortic valve	93451-93464, 93566-93568
RHC without LHC or coronaries	93451
LHC without RHC or coronaries	93452

Cardiac Catheterization Procedures	CPT®
RHC and retrograde LHC without coronaries	93453
Native coronary artery catheterization;	93454
with bypass grafts	93455
with RHC	93456
with RHC and bypass grafts	93457
with LHC	93458
with LHC and bypass grafts	93459
with RHC and LHC	93460
with RHC and LHC and bypass grafts	93461
LHC by trans-septal or apical puncture	+93462
Angiography of noncoronary arteries and veins performed as a distinct service	Select appropriate codes from the Radiology and Vascular Injection Procedures sections.
CPT® 93593 to 93597 are appropriate for invasive evaluation of congenital heart disease	

- These guidelines apply to individuals with stable conditions and who are not in the acute setting. Individuals in acute settings or with unstable angina should be handled as medical emergencies.
- Pediatric catheterization is done for many purposes, including diagnosis and intervention of congenital and acquired heart disease.

- When device placement is planned (ASD/VSD device, transcatheter valve implantation, PDA device), the procedure codes for those devices include all cardiac catheterization(s), intraprocedural contrast injection(s), fluoroscopic radiological supervision and interpretation, and imaging guidance performed to complete the procedure. A diagnostic catheterization may be considered on a case-by-case basis if there are unanswered issues via noninvasive imaging.
- A right heart catheterization can be approved for pulmonary artery interventions (e.g., stents, coils).

Cardiac Catheterization Indications (PEDCD-11.2)

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- Diagnostic catheterization is considered medically necessary:
 - When other advanced imaging has failed to resolve a clinical issue and results will impact the individual's management
 - For example, a catheterization to assess ventricular pressures and shunt to determine if VSD surgery is required
 - For preoperative assessment in complex heart disease
 - Norwood procedure
 - Bidirectional Glenn shunt
 - Fontan procedure
 - Pulmonary atresia
 - Pulmonary hypertension
 - During some interventions such as:
 - Valvuloplasty
 - Pulmonary artery or vein stents
 - Assessment of individuals who are status post heart transplant
 - See **Kawasaki Disease Initial Imaging (PEDCD-6.1)** for specific intervals in Kawasaki Disease
 - On an individual who is having a device placed when:
 - A diagnostic catheterization, or stenting is needed in addition to the device
 - The diagnostic catheterization is considered medically necessary separate from the device placement
 - Individuals with anomalous coronary arteries, or with syndromes associated with abnormal coronary arteries (i.e., Williams syndrome) or acquired CAD (i.e., KD see **Kawasaki Disease Initial Imaging (PEDCD-6.1)**)
 - When diagnostic images are not adequate or evaluation or treatment decision
 - Preoperative for cardiac surgery
 - New symptoms concerning for ischemia

References (PEDCD-11)

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