

Conditional Orders

Standing orders are not acceptable. The ordering physician must indicate any additional orders. For example, if the ordering physician requests a diagnostic mammogram and if a mass is identified, the ordering physician must supply the order to "perform an ultrasound if the radiologist identifies a mass."

Conditional orders are valid when:

- They are for a specific patient rather than being a standing order, such as "perform an ultrasound on any patient whose mammogram is abnormal."
- The treating/ordering physician specifies in the order which result of the first test will "trigger the second test."

Cardiovascular Blood Pool Imaging

Cardiac blood pool imaging studies may be performed at rest and/or during stress. When performed during exercise and/or pharmacologic stress, the appropriate stress testing code should be reported in addition.

If the radiologist performs the blood pool imaging at rest, this is a single study.

CPT 78472 is a cardiac single study: *Cardiac blood pool imaging, gated equilibrium; planar, single study at rest or stress (exercise and/or phar-*

macologic), wall motion study plus ejection fraction, with or without additional quantitative processing. Note that this service contains only **one** of these elements.

In contrast, multiple studies include both rest and stress, not just one of these elements.

The majority studies will contain a multiple study. For example, CPT 78473: *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.*

The patient is injected and images of the patient are performed while the heart is at regular rhythm and then again, when the heart is at exercise (stress). If the pharmaceutical stress agent is provided by the physician group, you are to report that as well. Also, the additional codes 93015-93018 for the physician's cardiac stress test's distinct components are billed depending on the setting and entity performing the test.

Supervision of cardiac stress tests also varies by site. The physician must be with the patient in the hospital outpatient setting, but in the office setting, the physician only needs to be in the same office suite. ■

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