

# National Coverage Determination (NCD) for PET for Perfusion of the Heart (220.6.1)

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## Tracking Information

<b>Publication Number</b> 100-3	<b>Manual Section Number</b> 220.6.1	<b>Manual Section Title</b> PET for Perfusion of the Heart
<b>Version Number</b> 2	<b>Effective Date of this Version</b> 4/3/2009	<b>Implementation Date</b> 10/30/2009

## Description Information

### Benefit Category

Diagnostic Tests (other)

**Please Note:** This may not be an exhaustive list of all applicable Medicare benefit categories for this item or service.

### Indications and Limitations of Coverage

#### 1. Rubidium 82 (Effective March 14, 1995)

Effective for services performed on or after March 14, 1995, PET scans performed at rest or with pharmacological stress used for noninvasive imaging of the perfusion of the heart for the diagnosis and management of patients with known or suspected coronary artery disease using the FDA-approved radiopharmaceutical Rubidium 82 (Rb 82) are covered, provided the requirements below are met:

- The PET scan, whether at rest alone, or rest with stress, is performed in place of, but not in addition to, a single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT); or
- The PET scan, whether at rest alone or rest with stress, is used following a SPECT that was found to be inconclusive. In these cases, the PET scan must have been considered necessary in order to determine what medical or surgical intervention is required to treat the patient. (For purposes of this requirement, an inconclusive test is a test(s) whose results are equivocal, technically uninterpretable, or discordant with a patient's other clinical data and must be documented in the beneficiary's file.)
- For any PET scan for which Medicare payment is claimed for dates of services prior to July 1, 2001, the claimant must submit additional specified information on the claim form (including proper codes and/or modifiers), to indicate the results of the PET scan. The claimant must also include information on whether the PET scan was performed after an inconclusive noninvasive cardiac test. The information submitted with respect to the previous noninvasive cardiac test must specify the type of test performed prior to the PET scan and whether it was inconclusive or unsatisfactory. These explanations are in the form of special G codes used for billing PET scans using Rb 82. Beginning July 1, 2001, claims should be submitted with the appropriate codes.

(This NCD last reviewed March 2005.)

**Cross Reference:** See NCDs for PET Scans (§220.6) and SPECT (§220.12)