Plaque Analysis Reimbursement Overview

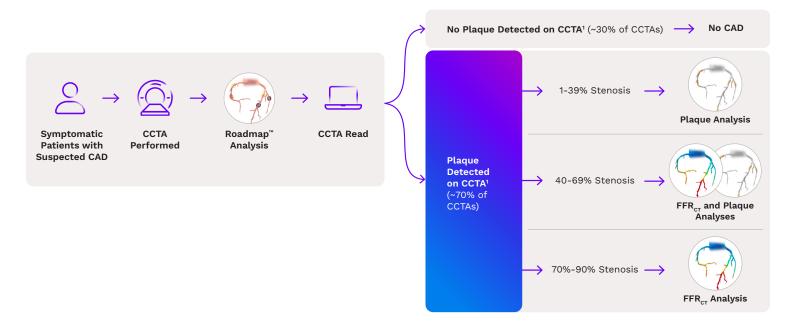


Heartflow's Plaque Analysis is an AI Coronary Plaque Analysis (AI-CPA) tool that provides physicians with patient specific coronary plaque type and quantity that is accurate, comprehensive, and actionable. This information, in combination with coronary physiology, allows physicians to more confidently assess a patient's individual risk for a coronary event and provide personalized treatment.

Plaque Analysis can help guide care decisions where presence of plaque has been confirmed in recent Cardiac Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA) images.

Patient Population

While practice guidelines are being developed, an appropriate patient population consists of patients with symptomatic acute or stable chest pain and observed coronary plaque on a CCTA, as shown in the graphic below.



A sample dictation report and a clinical dossier of current clinical literature is available to support any additional documentation requirements.

Coding

Beginning on January 1, 2021, the American Medical Association (AMA) created new Category III Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes used to bill for the Heartflow Plaque Analysis. These codes are available for any technology that provides the AI-CPA service.

Global Code	
0623T	Automated quantification and characterization of coronary atherosclerotic plaque to assess severity of coronary disease, using data from coronary computed tomographic angiography; data preparation and transmission, computerized analysis of data, with review of computerized analysis output to reconcile discordant data, interpretation and report.
Component Code	es es
0624T (technical)	Automated quantification and characterization of coronary atherosclerotic plaque to assess severity of coronary disease, using data from coronary computed tomographic angiography; data preparation and transmission.
0625T (technical)	Automated quantification and characterization of coronary atherosclerotic plaque to assess severity of coronary disease, using data from coronary computed tomographic angiography; computerized analysis of data from coronary computed tomographic angiography.
0626T (professional)	Automated quantification and characterization of coronary atherosclerotic plaque to assess severity of coronary disease, using data from coronary computed tomographic angiography; review of computerized analysis output to reconcile discordant data, interpretation and report.

Category I Code Update: On January 1, 2026, 0623T-0626T will sunset and the AI-CPA service will convert to a Category I code. The full code number and descriptor will be announced by the American Medical Association in the fall of 2025.

Coverage

As of December 2024, AI-CPA is covered by five of the seven Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC). AI-CPA is considered reasonable and medically necessary as a diagnostic study when:

- The patient is eligible for CCTA, and;
- The patient presents with acute or stable chest pain and is at intermediate risk for CAD or has evidence of CAD-RADS level 1, 2, or 3 disease (>1% and <70% stenosis) on their CCTA and;
- The patient is negative or inconclusive for acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

The other two MACs, Novitas and FCSO, continue to consider coverage for AI-CPA on a case-by-case basis.

Commercial Payers: Effective October 1, 2025, EviCore updated their cardiac imaging guidelines to recommend coverage for AI-CPA utilizing the Medicare LCD coverage parameters. UnitedHealthcare will begin covering Plaque Analysis on October 1, 2025, in alignment with the EviCore guidelines. Many commercial plans, including Cigna and some regional BCBS plans are anticipated to adopt these updated coverage guidelines.

Medicare Advantage: In states with a local coverage determination (LCD), Medicare Advantage Plans cover AI-CPA. In non-LCD states, coverage is plan-dependent. Humana and Kaiser Permanante cover AI-CPA for Medicare Advantage patients nationally.

Coverage Limitations: AI-CPA is not considered reasonable or necessary in the following clinical circumstance(s): Screening; contraindications to CCTA; Not in conjunction with invasive coronary catheterization; Not to be used with normal CCTA results (CAD RADS = 0 or no plaque disease); Not to be used with high grade stenosis (>70%) or CAD-RADS 4 and CAD-RADS 5; Recent myocardial infarction (MI)(30 days or less); Unstable coronary symptoms; and Not to be used for surveillance.

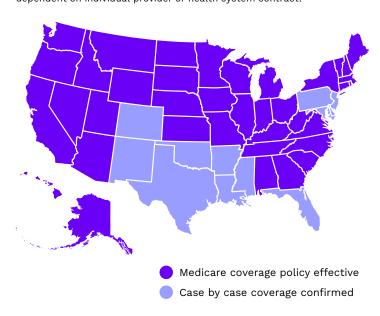
Payment

The payment environment for AI-CPA services is evolving. The current payment landscape is understood as the following:

Medicare: For 2025, Medicare has a national average payment amount of \$950.50 for 0625T (technical payment in the hospital outpatient setting). Two of the seven MACs, CGS and Noridian, have set Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) rates. For the global code (0623T), CGS has set payment at \$500 while Noridian has set payment between \$370 and \$573, geographically adjusted. Other MACs will post rates on their fee schedules when available.

Medicare Advantage: Payment for Medicare Advantage covered lives depends on plan specific contractual agreements.

Commercial Payers: When covered, payment for AI-CPA will be dependent on individual provider or health system contract.



- Bittner et al. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging 2020. (PROMISE) doi: 10.1016/j. jcmg.2019.09.012; Data on file.
- https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mln901346-how-use-medicarencci-tools.pdf
- https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/national-correct-codinginitiative-ncci-edits/medicare-ncci-procedure-procedure-ptp-edits

Other Considerations

When billing for Heartflow Plaque Analysis, additional billing, coding, and revenue cycle set up may be needed. Please consider the following:

- Conditional Order: Ordering provider intent is a key compliance element of reimbursement. Use of conditional order is recommended to capture this intent accordingly. Below are a few samples of phraseology for use on conditional orders for Plague Analysis services:
 - · CCTA with Plaque Analysis as clinically indicated
 - CCTA with Plaque Analysis when presence of plaque confirmed (CAD-RADS 1-3)
- Revenue Code Recommendation: Until CMS provides specific guidance for revenue code use, hospitals may align revenue code based on alignment of cost centers performing Plaque Analysis services.
 - Heartflow recommends use of revenue code 048x

Modifiers

- CMS developed the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) program to promote correct coding of Medicare claims, including when services are reported together.² NCCI currently has an edit in place that disallows payment for Plaque Analysis when a Plaque Analysis code (CPT code 0623T-0626T) and the CCTA code (CPT code 75574) are reported on the same claim for the same patient on the same date of service.³ In this scenario, NCCI has provided guidance to apply and document an appropriate modifier for appropriate payment.^{2,3}
- · Modifiers for consideration: 59, XE, XP, XS, and XU
- As always, use of any modifier is determined by the provider and should align with clinical documentation and published guidance for their use.
- Patient responsibility: If AI-CPA is a covered service, patient responsibility will typically be 20% of the contracted rate after annual deductible has been met. However, patient liability is ultimately plan specific and may vary accordingly.
- Additional Documentation Requirements: New technology claims may require supporting documentation to determine eligibility for reimbursement absent established policies. The following supporting documentation is recommended for submission upon request:
 - · History and physical examination
 - Lab/Diagnostic test results, if applicable
 - · Progress or office notes for the service performed
 - Full text peer reviewed articles
 - · Society guidelines

Appeals Support: The Heartflow Market Access team and Field Reimbursement Managers are available to provide claims appeals support. This support includes provision of appeals letters, evidence package, health plan policy review to determine most efficient path forward.

Questions

Your Heartflow Field Reimbursement Manager will be available to answer any ongoing questions pertaining to AI-CPA; however, you can reach the entire Field Reimbursement department with any questions at reimbursement@heartflow.com



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